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EU threatens to extend ban on British beef



Gore: checks on babies

CJD 'risk' to babies of women victims

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

WOMEN who develop the human form of "mad cow" disease may pass it on to their children, a leading British expert warned yesterday.

Dr Sheila Gore, of the Medical Research Council's biostatistics unit in Cambridge, said monitoring was vital, in the light of new evidence that mad cow disease can be passed from mother to calf.

Dr Gore, who is among those who have been pressing the Ministry of Agriculture to publish results from its experiments — because of the implications its results may have for human disease — yesterday welcomed the decision to do so. The original plan had been to keep the experiment going until 1997, with the scientists "blinded", unaware of which animals came from infected mothers and which did not. Pressure has forced the Ministry to abandon this experiment early.

"We need to know how many children there are born to women who later contract this variant of CJD [Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease]," Dr Gore said. "We also need to know dates of birth, so that the children can be flagged with the Registrar-General, and kept track of."

The Health Department said that such monitoring was already being done, as part of the work of the CJD Surveillance Unit.

Continued on page 2, col 5

Mad cows can pass disease to their calves

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS

THE Government's efforts to restore faith in the beef industry suffered a new setback yesterday after it revealed evidence for the first time that "mad cow" disease can be passed from mother to calf.

The demolition of previous claims that the disease could only be passed through food threw its strategy for eradicating Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy into confusion.

Ministers immediately acknowledged that plans for the selective slaughter of 147,000 cows from previously infected herds would be rethought. Thousands more may have to be killed and the new findings are likely to delay any partial lifting of the export ban which, after the Florence summit, John Major predicted could happen within months.

Last night, in a surprise move signalling a potential new confrontation between London and Brussels, Franz Fischler, the EU Agriculture Commissioner, told the Government that the European Commission would now have to review its approval of Britain's previously agreed plans for eradicating the disease.

Herr Fischler has written to Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, asking for further details of the findings. The EU's Standing Veterinary Committee also said that if Britain's selective cull had to be extended, the progressive lifting of the European ban on exports of British beef would have to be delayed.

Earlier, a hastily arranged announcement by the Ministry of Agriculture suggested that the risk of so-called "maternal transmission" was about 10 per cent in BSE-infected cattle and as low as 1 per cent across the national herd. Throughout the day, government officials emphasised that there was no additional risk to human health.

But Mr Hogg conceded that the existing slaughter scheme might have to be widened to include a limited number of

the "last-borns" from infected cows. This was because government scientists had found during a study of 600 cattle born in 1989 — half of them confirmed BSE cases — that transmission of the disease was more likely to occur in the latter stages of the incubation period. In virtually all the cases the mothers died within six months of giving birth.

However, the Government's advisers appeared to differ with Mr Hogg. Professor John Pattison, who chairs the BSE advisory committee, said that all calves of infected cattle might have to be slaughtered. "It is one option that has to be considered," he said. Mr Hogg insisted that it was "logical" to consider killing only the last-born calf of infected cows.

The new findings may help to clear up the mystery of why some 30,000 cattle, born after the suspect feed blamed for causing BSE was banned, went on to contract the disease.

There are no conclusions on precisely how BSE was passed from mothers to calves, whether genetically, through the womb, or at birth. The Government said that while the route of maternal transmission was still a mystery, BSE could not be passed through milk. Calves did not drink the milk produced by their mothers; that was saved for human consumption.



Hogg: 'slaughter will have to be extended'

As the Opposition parties criticised the way officials and not ministers had dropped the new bombshell at a Whitehall briefing, critics of the Government's BSE policy went on the warpath again last night.

Richard Lacey, a microbiologist at Leeds University who issued a warning long before the Government did that BSE could be transmitted to humans, said the findings implied that the disease was passed in the blood.

"If it's in the blood it means that all beef products are dangerous," he said. "This means there should be a total ban on beef products in this country and we should slaughter all infected herds. It is going to be devastating."

In Brussels Keith Meldrum, the Government's chief veterinary officer, told his EU colleagues of the result of the study and said Britain would now consider whether it was necessary to extend the planned selective slaughter of 147,000 cattle.

Around a million cattle aged 30 months and over are also being slaughtered and Brussels could even insist that the 30-month ceiling is lowered. Mr Meldrum faced a barrage of questions at an emergency meeting of the EU's standing veterinary committee.

Mr Hogg said: "We shall need to take stock of the practical implications, in particular for the proposed selective cull of cattle, and what basis of selection stands to produce the most effective acceleration in the decline of BSE."

Meanwhile, the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, which advises the Government on BSE and its human equivalent, CJD, insisted no new action was needed to protect public health.

In a statement the committee said: "There is no case for changing its recommendations in relation to milk, meat, blood or any other product which is currently permitted."



Julie Pound and her husband, Richard, at their home in Montreal, Canada, where she is a well-known author

Olympic oaths of top official's wife

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN ATLANTA

THE wife of a senior Olympic Games official was arrested, seemingly under the influence of alcohol, after she allegedly swore at a policeman and knelt her in the groin.

Julie Pound, 55, was charged with disorderly conduct, battery, causing an obstruction and ignoring the orders of Officer Leanne Browning. Mrs Pound's husband, Richard, is a vice-president of the International Olympic Committee and is regarded as the most powerful man in the organisation after its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch.

The Pounds, who are Canadian, were returning to their hotel early on Wednesday when the incident occurred. They crossed a road, despite being ordered by Officer Browning, who was directing traffic, to stay on the pavement. In her police report, Officer Browning said: "I told

Mrs Pound and her husband to 'stop please and step back on to the kerb'. Instead of complying they proceeded further into the lane of traffic. I asked them three more times to return to the kerb. Instead, both Mrs Pound and her husband began arguing with me and stated that 'this is the biggest waste of time'."

Officer Browning said that when the couple saw a break in the traffic, Mrs Pound swore at her and crossed. When she ordered them to return, Mrs Pound again swore at her and walked on. "At that point, to prevent her from leaving the scene, I grabbed her arm and told her she was under arrest. She called me a bitch and knelt me in the groin."

Mrs Pound shouted for help, telling onlookers that she was being "brutalised". Officer Browning "had to fight" to get handcuffs on her.

The Pounds are not the first Olympic visitors to have had trouble with Atlanta traffic police, who have repeatedly tried to stop jaywalkers.

Mr Pound has been one of the IOC's most vocal critics of Atlanta's handling of the Games, and has criticised transport problems and computer malfunctions. He has also joined other officials in expressing disenchantment at the overly commercial ap-

proach adopted by the Atlanta organisers.

The couple live in Montreal where Mrs Pound is a respected fiction writer, writing under the name Julie Keith.

Mrs Pound is due to appear in court on August 26. It is thought that she will be fined and bound over.

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Power utility leads bonanza

A new wave of utility shareholder bonanzas is expected in an attempt to beat the windfall utilities tax planned by a Labour government.

Yorkshire Electricity set the pace when it announced that next year's dividend would soar by 34 per cent as a way of returning value to shareholders after a strong performance. Page 21

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Official solicitor rules human embryos have no rights to avert being destroyed

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Official Solicitor yesterday refused to intervene in the destruction of thousands of human embryos, saying that a child acquires legal rights only if it is born alive.

He spoke as 33 fertility clinics began to destroy more than 3,000 embryos that had been frozen in liquid nitrogen for five years. Peter Harris, whose duty as Official Solicitor is to protect the interests of children, declined a request from Life, the anti-abortion campaigners, to halt the destruction. Mr Harris used the principle of a "life in being" — most commonly applied by inheritance lawyers to divide legacies — to explain his inability to intervene. "My view is that I could not act for a non-legal person and an embryo is not a legal person," he said.

"A child has an independent legal persona when it is born. This doesn't mean to say that things which happen in utero don't give rise to cases of

action if the child is born alive. For instance, if a mother has been injured in a road traffic accident and a child has been born suffering from injuries suffered in the womb, a child has successfully sued the person who caused the accident for damages.

"If the mother had miscarried, there would have been no right of action in relation to the foetus. It would be dead. It wouldn't have an estate that would carry on.

"There was a recent case where a mother was knifed by somebody and the foetus was injured. The child was born but died. The person who stabbed the mother was convicted of the murder of the child. There would be no criminal liability in terms of murder in relation to the foetus if the child had been born dead. A child born alive has independent legal rights, not least of which is the right to life."

The Prime Minister failed to

reply before the midnight deadline to the Life's request to extend it for six months.

At Bourn Hall fertility clinic in Cambridgeshire, Peter Brinsden, the director, laid out the case for the destruction of the embryos on the parents who had either failed to reply to registered letters or moved without telling the clinic. "If you had £10,000 in the bank, you wouldn't normally ignore it for five years," he said. "These are even more important than £10,000. If couples shirk their responsibilities like that we have no choice but to destroy them."

The centres had lost touch with their parents, and embryos can be kept for longer than five years only with parental permission.

The embryos, consisting of four cells or fewer, were being thawed and placed in water or salt solution at room temperature to perish before being incinerated. Some clinics ex-

pect to take two days to complete the task.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority had warned Mr Brinsden that his clinic would be closed if he failed to comply with the rules.

One American woman, who had seen a report about the destruction on CNN television, telephoned Bourn Hall at 7pm on Wednesday, with just five hours to spare to save her embryos. She also paid the backlog of her bill for storing them.

One or two drops of alcohol were applied to each of 60 thawed embryos at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, to break down their cells.

"Of course, one is not happy about destroying them but the law is quite clear and it has to be done," Dr Brian Lieberman, consultant in charge of in-vitro fertilisation, said. "The day of reckoning has come."

Valerie Grove, page 13

Italians convict former SS officer

An Italian military court convicted Erich Priebke, a former SS captain, of taking part in the massacre of 335 civilians in Nazi-occupied Rome, but ordered his immediate release because of extenuating circumstances.

Priebke, 83, was accused of mass murder aggravated by premeditation and cruelty in the killings at the Ardeatine Caves on March 24, 1944. The prosecution had sought life imprisonment. Page 11

Mother is road rage victim

Nicola Archer was attacked by a man with a screwdriver in a road-rage incident near Eastbourne. She escaped with a cut to her arm after winding up her car window.

Mrs Archer, 22, was with her three young children in a queue of stationary traffic when a car driven by a woman with a male passenger came round the corner behind her. The man got out and became very aggressive. Police are appealing for witnesses.

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Reassuring statements that fail to win confidence

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

ONCE again the Government has contradicted its own past advice on mad cow disease. Years of reassurances from ministers and scientists that there is no evidence that cows can pass BSE on to calves were overturned yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture's statement that "there may be very low levels of maternal transmission of BSE in cattle".

Like all previous BSE "thunderbolts", yesterday's came out of the blue. Conveniently for the Government it came in the week after the

Commons rose for the long summer recess.

Although the Government received the results of the seven-year study by the epidemiology department at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, Weybridge, in the middle of last month, officials insisted yesterday that it was not in a position to release it at that time. Instead, as usual, the findings were sent to the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) for assessment and its conclusions landed on the desks of ministers early this week.

However, the manner of yesterday's announcement was not ex-

THE GOVERNMENT

actly designed to raise public confidence in the Government's handling of an issue on which previous soothing words have proved to be worthless. It was driven by the fact that Keith Meldrum, the chief veterinary officer, was due to appear at yesterday's meeting in Brussels at a meeting of European Union vets.

In the past Britain has been berated for keeping them in the dark. It was decided therefore that Mr Meldrum would tell all at this meeting, and that the press would

also be told at home. Specialist correspondents were invited along to a ministry talk on experts.

The BBC sent several reporters and what was intended to be a tight briefing developed into something close to a press conference. No ministers were present and it was only after the news broke during the morning that Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, went into action with a series of broadcasts.

The Government was swift to assure the public that the latest

findings had no implications for human health. The public may be forgiven for treating those words with some caution.

BSE came to public attention in 1985 at a cattle show near Ashford, Kent, where cows were showing unusual symptoms, identified the following year as BSE. In 1988 scientists said it affected only older cattle fed on scrapie-infected sheep offal, and the ministry said there was no evidence to suggest it could cross the species barrier to affect others. The next year the Government's specialist committee said the disease could not be passed from cow to calf. In 1993 indepen-

dent scientists began warning of a link between BSE and a disease that affected humans, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD). However, the Government continued to deny that it could cross the species barrier, with ministers stating that there was no evidence that BSE could be transmitted to humans.

It was in March this year that Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said for the first time that government scientists believed there was a possible link between mad cow disease and CJD in humans. Its claim that beef could be eaten with confidence was met with a worldwide ban imposed by

the EU and steeply falling sales in Britain. However, the Government again insisted that the disease could not be transmitted from cows to calves.

Only two weeks ago came another "thunderbolt". There was now a strong possibility that BSE could affect sheep and there was risk inherent in the consumption of the brain, spinal chord or intestines. Yesterday's admission that the disease could pass from generation to generation punched the latest hole in the Government's campaign to allay public concern. Its record so far suggests it may not be the last.

Findings raise possibility that human strain can be passed from infected mothers to their children

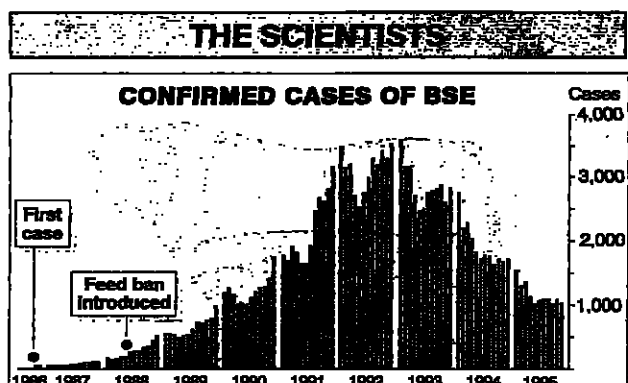
Calves discovery hits BSE eradication plan

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE discovery by government scientists that cows can pass on BSE to their calves means that eradicating the disease from British herds is likely to prove more difficult than thought. The seven-year study also raises the possibility that women who have suffered from the human version of BSE, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, may pass it on to their children.

The results suggest that sporadic cases of BSE are likely to occur for many years. However, the Ministry of Agriculture said that the transmission from cow to calf was rare enough to ensure that BSE levels, which are falling at present by 40 per cent a year, should continue to decline rapidly.

The findings stem from an experiment in which 315 calves from cows which developed BSE were compared with a similar number of calves from cows of the same herd which had not shown signs of the disease by the age of six. Conducted by the Central Veterinary Laboratory on a farm in Yorkshire, the experiment involved monitoring the calves as they grew to see whether the offspring of BSE cows were more likely to contract the disease than those whose mothers were free of it. By July 14, 273 animals in



each group had reached the age of seven and had been slaughtered, or had developed disease. Of those with BSE-infected mothers, 42 have been confirmed as having BSE. In the other group, 13 have developed BSE. This means that there is an excess risk in the group with BSE-infected mothers of 29, or roughly 10 per cent of the calves. It follows that about one in ten of the calves born to BSE-infected cows is likely to get the disease from its mother.

The experiment proves that maternal transmission takes place, but does not give a very accurate estimate of how great it is. All the calves in the study were born in the 13 months before their mothers showed clinical evidence of BSE, and the great majority within five months of clinical onset. Putting the best possible

complexion on the figures, the ministry suggests that the risk is concentrated in the last six months or so before clinical symptoms appear. Since cows on average produce calves over five years, or 60 months, this means — the ministry asserts — that the 10 per cent risk is in reality only 1 per cent in farm conditions.

If true, this means that only the last calf born to a cow before she develops BSE stands a real risk of getting the disease. So a slaughter policy that concentrated on the final calf born to an infected mother might be justified, and is one option being considered by the ministry.

Typically, cows have their first calf when they are a year or two old. After that, a farmer would aim for a further calf every year for as long as the cow is productive, typically

seven or eight years, but sometimes longer. That means that a dairy cow might have six or more calves during her career.

The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC), in a statement issued yesterday, concedes that the experiment "does not provide a good estimate of the risk to animals born more than six months before the onset of BSE in the dam". Only if the risk of transmission is insignificant before that time is the 1 per cent figure quoted by the ministry appropriate.

Kevin Taylor, Assistant Chief Veterinary Officer, said it was still a mystery how the disease was transmitted from cow to calf. It could not be passed through milk, because the calves of dairy cows do not drink their mother's milk. It was possible infection could occur through the embryo, placenta or uterine discharge.

He also said that it was difficult to quantify how many calves had acquired BSE from their mothers. Of a total of 28,402 cases of BSE in animals born after infected feed was banned, 1,203 were the offspring of diseased animals. "That rate is 4.2 per cent, but that's misleading because many of them will also have been exposed to the risk of feed," he said. The figure was broadly consistent with the research findings.

Douglas Hogg, the Agricul-



The study involved calves from cows infected with BSE compared with calves from those that showed no signs

ture Minister, said: "It is important to keep this information in perspective. The Chief Veterinary Officer endorses SEAC's conclusions that there is no case for changing recommendations in relation to milk, meat or any other product which is currently permitted."

But Dr Helen Grant, a retired neuropathologist from Charing Cross Hospital in London, who has been a

constant critic of the Government over BSE, said that the ministry should now follow advice to ban calves' brains from human consumption.

"This makes it clear that when the calves are born, they may have infected brains," she said. "They should be excluded from the food chain, as the House of Commons Select Committee recommended as long ago as July, 1990."

A spokesman for the minis-

try confirmed that there are no restrictions on the use of materials from calves less than six months old. "SEAC have advised that at present there is no need to change these regulations, but no doubt they will keep it under consideration. The food manufacturers have told us that calves' brains are not in fact used in food products."

The Committee considered whether evidence of maternal

transmission calls into question the existing recommendations to protect public health. These were drawn up on the assumption that BSE could be a risk to man, still not proven, and on the assumption that maternal transmission could occur. The committee concluded that there was no case for changing its recommendations in relation to milk, meat, blood or any other permitted product.

Latest findings may endanger fragile meat market recovery

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE INDUSTRY

THE livestock industry had yet to feel the impact of the Ministry of Agriculture's announcement last night. The auction market average price of beef actually rose from Wednesday's 95.61p per kilo to 96.08p yesterday, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission, which said the news had not prompted panic.

Farmers will anxiously watch market trends today as the news that BSE can be passed from cow to calf is assessed by consumers. Sales of beef have returned to nearly 80 per cent of their pre-scare level in March and the retail trade desperately hopes the return of public confidence will not be damaged.

The Consumers' Association meanwhile renewed its advice to shoppers buying the Sunday roast that they should buy the "safe" muscle cuts of beef only if they consider acceptable whatever risk that might accompany it, and avoid beef products. David Dickinson, editor of *Health Watch*, published by the association, said: "The government gave people the impression that maternal transmission wasn't the case."

"What the new statement raises now is the distinct possibility that calves born to BSE-infected cows which have not developed the symptoms may well have got into the food chain. There is nothing to stop that."

The Meat and Livestock Commission acknowledged that the Government may need to review its approach to the selective slaughter programme proposed by the EU as a precondition to reopening export markets to British beef. But Colin Maclean, its director-general, said: "The important point is that this result poses no threat to human health. All the safeguards which have already been put in place ensure the safety of British beef which can be

eaten with confidence. All these findings may mean is that it may take slightly longer to eradicate BSE from cattle totally."

The commission said the sharp downward trend in the number of BSE cases, from 1,000 a week in 1993 to fewer than 200 a week now, would not be affected. Sir David Naish, president of the NFU, said: "The announcement confirms what we have all believed would be the probable outcome of research into ma-

ternal transmission, but mercifully at the lowest level."

"I am relieved that the likely transmission rate is put at only 1 per cent. There is more and more evidence that the action that has been taken is enough and that BSE is in dramatic decline."

He said that infected feed had remained the source of BSE and that the impact of the 1988 feed ban had led to a dramatic fall in BSE numbers, which were declining at a rate of about a third year on year.

Sainsbury's reported that sales of beef, running at between 75-80 per cent of pre-scare levels, were continuing to recover steadily. Diane Lamb, the supermarket chain's head of press, said: "We have looked at it and nothing new has come out of the report. It doesn't affect our policy."

"In 1990 we launched our 'Farm Assured Scheme' which gives us full traceability on all our meat. All our British beef is under 30 months old."

Devon dairy farmer Brian Jennings, who has 220 head of cattle, said: "What has been said does not come as a surprise. The overwhelming conviction of farmers is that BSE is linked to contaminated feed and there has always been a suspicion that there may be a genetic susceptibility which compounds the problem. Most farmers will have accepted advice not to breed from siblings of dams that have gone down with BSE."

Precautions sufficient, say French farmers

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

CONSUMER groups in France reacted with shock yesterday to the British statement that farm unions said that safety precautions already in place were sufficient to prevent further public panic in France.

Vincent Perot, scientific director of the Confederation of Living Environ-

ment, said: "If the disease can be handed down through the generations, that could massively increase the problem ...

simply slaughtering cows over a certain age may not be sufficient."

The French Ministry of Agriculture declined to comment but the French Young Farmers' Union said that the possibility of passing on the disease from cow to calf would not affect cattle breeders, given the government's policy of slaughtering entire herds when a single cow was found to be infected.

Consumption of beef in France has dropped by almost a third since March.

CJD 'risk to babies of women victims'

Continued from page 1
"They look at the family history of all cases of CJD, and that would go forwards as well as backwards" a spokeswoman said.

So far, the CJD unit has identified 11 patients with the form of CJD which has been tentatively linked with BSE. All but one have already died, and none have been named by the unit, so it is impossible to say whether any were mothers with children who may be at risk.

Dr Gore points out that human births take place in far more controlled conditions

than calving, which may reduce the risk of transmission. But it is not clear how maternal transmission in cows occurs. If it is in the womb rather than during birth or after birth, it may just as easily occur in humans.

"I am not trying to cause alarm but I think it is important that the question of maternal transmission is raised for all species that are subject to these diseases" she said.

"For the first time we are seeing cases of CJD in women still in their child-bearing years. We have no idea of the risk of maternal transmission. All I am saying is let us not

make the mistake of not getting the data." At least three mothers died of CJD last year. Although it is unclear whether they had the new strain — which could be linked with BSE — it is known to afflict the under-45s. Old-style CJD usually strikes after the age of 63. Jean Wake, 38, a divorcee with a 15-year-old daughter from Washington, Tyne and Wear, died last November after a long illness. She had spent four months in hospital, the last three unable to recognise her family. Her mother Nora Greenhalgh, 74, from Sunderland, had been sent a letter by John Major stating:

"I must reassure you that there is no evidence to suggest that eating meat causes this sort of illness in people."

Michelle Bowen, 29, of Harpurhey, Manchester, also died last November, weeks after her baby was delivered by Caesarian section while she was in a coma. She had worked in a butcher's shop when she was a teenager. Her symptoms included mood swings.

Margaret Garland, 52, a mother of two, died in June last year. Her husband John, a microbiologist, accused the Government at the time of treating consumers like dirt.

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Nurse drowns on first day of 50th birthday trip

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A NURSE drowned on the first day of a holiday in the South Pacific to celebrate her 50th birthday and her sister's 30th wedding anniversary, it emerged yesterday.

Margaret Lynch, from Meppershall, Bedfordshire, who was also a swimming instructor, was overpowered by a freak wave as the fringes of a massive tropical storm swept over the small island of Rarotonga, part of the Cook Islands.

Mrs Lynch, who had gone out in a rowing boat with her brother-in-law while her husband Eddie was recovering from jet-lag, was flung into the sea after the boat capsized. Local fishermen tried in vain to rescue her.

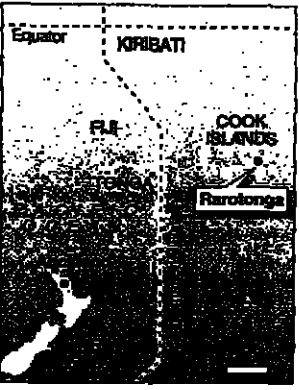
Mrs Lynch, her sister Sheena and brother-in-law Peter Thomasson had decided to go snorkelling in the lagoon between the shore and the coral reefs that ring Rarotonga. They were unaware that the massive waves crashing over the reefs were not normal, but caused by a huge tropical storm that was also causing chaos in Hawaii, 4,000 miles to the north.

Mr Thomasson said: "It looked like paradise, absolutely wonderful. We were far enough from the storm that we could not see the bad weather, only the waves. There was an enormous sea out on the outer reef, which we didn't realise was totally unusual for the island. We had only been there for eight hours and this was the first time we had had a look at the lagoon. The three of us decided to row out to some islands about 200 yards away and do some snorkelling, leaving Eddie to have a lie-in."

"On the way, we stopped to change position so I could row



Margaret Lynch: waves were too strong for her



Rarotonga

more comfortably, and when we sat down again we noticed that we had actually drifted quite a long way. It turned out that, unbeknown to us, there was a horrendous current in the lagoon, dragging us towards this huge great surf on the outer reef.

"I was trying to row like nobody's business, but I just couldn't beat the current. We were being dragged inexorably towards the waves, which looked as big as a house."

A local man spotted the Britons' distress and set out in a small rowing-boat, picking Mrs Thomasson up and returning her to shore. Before he

could get back to rescue the other two, their boat had been capsized.

Mr Thomasson said: "Margaret and I were being ducked underwater by every wave, but we managed to hang on to the boat and I attached a line from it to his boat. The chap was a very strong rower and very brave, but he seemed to be being dragged towards the waves. Then I realised that some fishermen in a boat with an outboard motor had gone out to the other side of the surf. "He had decided that the only way to save us was to go through the waves to them, but we got into even rougher seas and both boats were capsized and all three of us were being knocked about by horrendous waves. Margaret was a swimming instructor in her spare time and a strong swimmer, but the sea was so rough, it was too much even for her."

Mr Thomasson made it through the surf to the waiting fishermen, and the local rower managed to swim to shore.

Mr Thomasson said: "It was terrible having to tell Eddie what had happened. He was distraught. The dreadful thing is that the next day it was completely calm again and there were little boys out in boats there, having no difficulties at all."

The bereaved holidaymakers were visited by Rarotonga's Prime Minister, who paid his condolences. They flew back to England two days after the accident on July 20, but Mrs Lynch's body could not be brought back for some time. An inquest into her death was opened in Bedfordshire yesterday.

A fund has been set up in Mrs Lynch's memory to thank the Rarotongans for their help in trying to save her. It will be donated to the island's health service.



Lady Sarah Chatto leaving hospital with her husband and their son, who arrived on Sunday weighing 7lb 12oz

Royal Family's new member waits for proud parents to name names

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE child 14th in line to the throne emerged from the Portland Hospital in London yesterday, still officially without a name. The boy, born on Sunday, is Princess Margaret's first grandchild.

Asked how she was feeling, Lady Sarah Chatto, with her hair tied in a pony tail and wearing loose green trousers and a mustard smock top, said: "Great."

The child is blessed with having no title and no foreseeable public role in spite of being a great-grandson of King George VI, because his father is a commoner. The former Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, 32, younger child of the Queen's sister and the Earl of Snowdon, married Daniel Chatto, 39, in

1994. They live quietly away from public scrutiny in a flat in west London.

The Queen's only niece was said to be in good health after the birth. Lady Sarah's father and Mr Chatto's mother, Ros, were the first to visit mother and baby. Lady Sarah told the Royal Family of her pregnancy during a visit to Windsor Castle last Christmas. The Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, who divorced in 1978, were said by Buckingham Palace to be delighted.

The baby will be in the same position as the children of the Princess Royal, Peter and Zara Phillips. Their father, Captain Mark Phillips, was also a commoner so they inherit neither title nor position, irrespective of the fact that

their mother is the Queen's daughter. They, too, have the good fortune to enjoy a relatively private life with no official duties.

Mr Chatto, a former actor, and Lady Sarah, who attended a south London art college, are both artists who travel regularly to the Continent to paint together. Lady Sarah's older brother, Viscount Linley, and his wife Serena Stanhope married in 1993 but do not yet have children.

Baby Chatto's claim to the throne comes in a queue preceded by the Prince of Wales, Prince William, Prince Harry, the Duke of York, Princess Beatrice, Princess Eugenie, Prince Edward, the Princess Royal, Peter Phillips, Zara Phillips, Princess Margaret, Viscount Linley and Lady Sarah Chatto.

Book on 'killings' is fiction, RUC says

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Ulster Constabulary said yesterday that a book claiming that an SAS squad assassinated 30 terrorist suspects in Northern Ireland in the early 1970s was fiction.

The RUC's judgment on *The Nemesis File*, by Paul Bruce, the pseudonym of a man claiming to have been a member of the death squad, was issued after the author's interrogation at a Belfast police station. He was arrested at his flat in England on Wednesday. The book, published by Blake Publishing last autumn, is to come out in paperback next month.

The RUC said it was satisfied the allegations in the book "are not true in fact or substance and this includes an assertion that the author was at some time a member of the Special Air Service Regiment". The RUC was satisfied that the author had not been concerned, either directly or indirectly, "in the commission of any serious criminal offence whilst serving in the Province". The RUC established that Mr Bruce had served as a vehicle mechanic with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers during 1972. The statement said the investigation into the matter was closed.

Yesterday, after Mr Bruce was released, John Blake, the book's publisher, said he remained convinced that the author was telling the truth.

Nationalists in Londonderry have removed the Unionist mayor's privileges after his participation in a loyalist protest last month. Richard Dallas, an Ulster Unionist, will hold office in name only.

The move was initiated by the Social Democratic and Labour Party, which controls the city council, after the mayor joined a loyalist blockade in the city during July's stand-off in Drumcree over an Orange parade. It represents a blow to cross-community relations.

Greek tycoon's home raided by armed gang

BY ADAM FRESKO

A BRANDY tycoon has had money and jewellery worth thousands of pounds stolen from his home by an armed gang who handcuffed his mother-in-law to the banister as they searched the house.

Detectives are investigating possible links between the robbery at the home of Spiro Metaxas and other raids across the country in the past 20 months that have netted at least £1 million.

In March the wife of Ron Atkinson, the Coventry City football manager, was handcuffed to banisters at her home in Birmingham as three men in balaclavas stole her £10,000 engagement ring. All the victims have been tied up or handcuffed and threatened. One brand of handcuffs is believed to have been used in all the raids with the keys left just out of reach.

In the latest attack, on Wednesday night, Stephanie Slater, the mother-in-law of Mr Metaxas, one of the brothers who sold Metaxas, Greece's leading spirits producer, to Grand Met in 1989 for £100 million, was alone watching television in the house at Godalming, Surrey, when the five raiders, wearing balaclavas, ran down the stairs and

shot a Rotweiler guard dog through the chest.

They had used a ladder to get in through a bedroom window. Mrs Slater was forced to open the family safe before being handcuffed. They then searched the rest of the house for valuables.

She freed herself and dialled 999. Police are checking security cameras at the house, which is set in three acres of secluded grounds and regularly patrolled by uniformed guards with dogs.

Last night detectives were trying to contact Mr Metaxas and his wife Kimberley, who are on holiday with their two sons. Mrs Metaxas is a well-known showjumper who competes in dressage events.

In other attacks, Eddie Healey, a millionaire property entrepreneur, was threatened and handcuffed at his house near Hull by a gang that escaped with cash and jewellery worth £250,000. Bill Bell, chairman of Port Vale Football Club, and his wife Jean were tied to a radiator in their home in Staffordshire. In Warwickshire, George Webster was at home with his wife when men burst in and threatened to kill them unless they opened the safe.

Boy hurt by army training explosive

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BOY aged 14 was badly burnt when a thunderflash left over from a military training exercise exploded in his face. Doctors may have to operate to save Simon Richardson's sight after he picked up the firecracker as he explored sand dunes on a military beach near Perranporth, Cornwall.

Simon's parents, Colin and Jill Richardson, from Durham, condemned the Defence Ministry for not providing adequate warning signs. The army training range borders on a holidaymakers' area and there are warning signs but no fence. Mr and Mrs Richardson said the peeling signs failed to provide sufficient warning.

Simon is understood to have taken the device back to the holiday camp and opened it, when it exploded. He was taken to the burns unit at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. He has a badly damaged right eye, damaged left eye, badly swollen lips and burns on 10 per cent of his body.

An MoD spokesman said that he was "extremely sorry" about what had happened but signs clearly indicated that people should keep out of the area.

It's a good old-fashioned rock 'n' roll engagement

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

LIAM GALLAGHER, rebellious singer with the pop group Oasis, confirmed his engagement to actress Patsy Kensit yesterday after a turbulent seven-month relationship that has followed the finest traditions of rock'n'roll love affairs. The couple exchanged rings from an antique shop in Haddon Garden, London, and will marry when Miss Kensit's divorce from Jim Kerr, singer with the group Simple Minds, is finalised.

Yesterday at Miss Kensit's home in St John's Wood, Gallagher, 23, who proposed a month ago, said he thought the engagement was "great". The news also pleased his mother, Peggy Gallagher, who said from her council home in Burnage, Manchester yesterday: "I'm abso-



Gallagher and Kensit: turbulent courtship

lutely thrilled for both of them. Patsy is such a nice girl. She was really good to me when I was ill. I've known for a few days because Liam phoned up to tell me."

The couple began dating publicly in January soon after Miss Kensit, 28, announced her separation from Kerr, who used to be married to Chrissy Hynde, lead singer with The Pretenders. Weeks

later they were seen kissing at a Dublin fashion show.

During a fiery relationship which has at times been more off than on the couple's every disagreement has been faithfully charted by the press. On one occasion Miss Kensit was photographed kicking Gallagher and his car after he had spent the night at the home of the supermodel Kate Moss.

Radio One DJ Chris Evans will be staying in Scotland for at least another week in spite of disastoe over his jokes about "tartan totie" and Scottish accents when he broadcast the *Breakfast Show* from Inverness on Monday. He is booked into a 15th-century Scottish castle 30 miles to the south of Inverness for a week, and is already contemplating new Scottish venues for the show.

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Reclusive twins test island's feudal ties

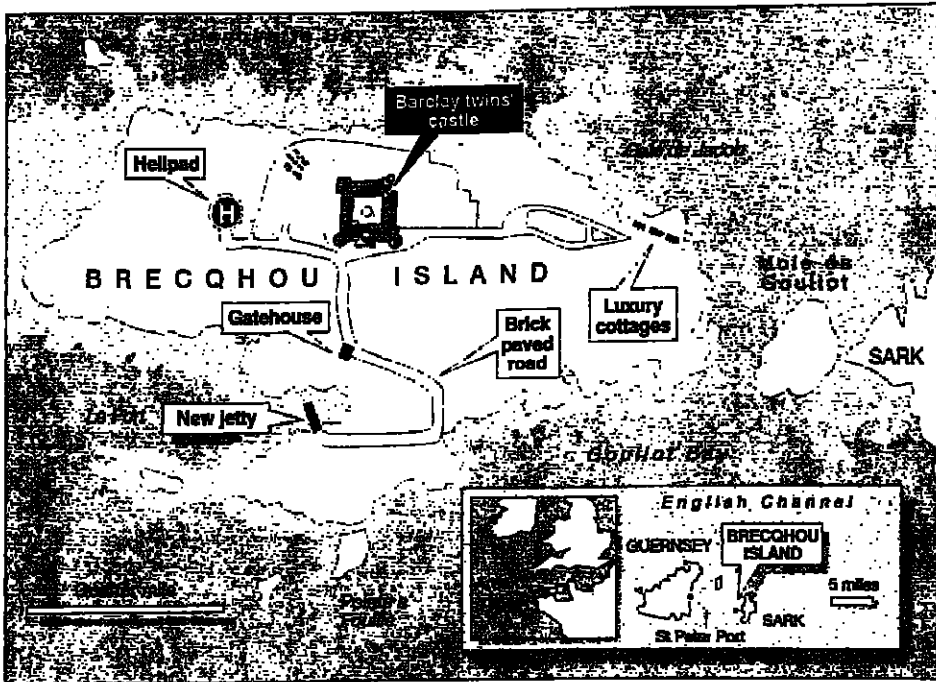
FROM PHILIP JEUNE
IN JERSEY

BRITAIN's wealthiest twins moved to their new home on the tiny Channel Island of Brecqhou this week. They will soon find out if an Englishman's castle really is his home.

David and Frederick Barclay, whose personal fortune is estimated to be at least £650 million, will be spending August with their families in an as yet unfinished Gothic-style castle on the island, the lease to which they acquired for £2.3 million in 1993.

The brothers are passionate about their privacy. Yet their move has been accompanied by a string of legal actions brought on their behalf that have attracted the very publicity they are so keen to avoid.

Since buying the lease of Brecqhou, they have sued Guernsey's local paper, the BBC Director-General John Birt, an *Observer* journalist



and Michael Beaumont, the Seigneur of neighbouring Sark.

In their action against Mr Beaumont, the twins are questioning the constitutional relationship between Sark, one of the few remaining feudal states in the world, and Brecqhou. When they bought the lease, the Barclays had to pay a thirteenth of the price — the "treizieme" — to Mr Beaumont, which amounted to £179,000. In their action they are seeking the return of

these feudal dues; a declaration that Brecqhou is not part of the fief of Sark; the amendment of their title deeds to reflect the true legal position; and clarification of the laws of Brecqhou concerning inheritance rights and alienation.

The action against the *Guernsey Evening Press & Star* was over the paper's publication of drawings of the castle, which the brothers considered to be private documents. The paper filed a defence in 1995, since when

no further action has been taken.

The recent libel action against Mr Birt and the journalist John Sweeney was brought by the Barclays in St Malo, France. It stemmed from an interview with Mr Sweeney, broadcast on BBC Radio Guernsey but heard in France, in which he was alleged to have accused the brothers of corruption. They sought damages of £108,000 but the case was thrown out after the judge said it was "unacceptable".

Drivers face M-way junction closures across the country

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE sudden closure of one of the country's busiest motorway junctions for repairs expected to take a year could be repeated on other main routes because of the scale of cuts in the roads maintenance programme.

The Highways Agency has shut junction two of the M1 in north London for safety reasons with less than four hours' notice. Tests showed that it was unsafe and needed £2.5 million of strengthening work, the agency said.

The Five Ways Corner junction, which links the M1 with the A1, was closed at 9pm on Wednesday, causing long tailbacks. The agency said tests of the strength of the slip-road showed it was unsafe although there was only a minimal risk of it collapsing. Repair work will not begin until January and is unlikely to be completed before next summer.

Lawrie Haynes, the agency's chief executive, said that

Treasury cuts in his maintenance budget meant "funding will not be sufficient" to avoid a further deterioration of the roads network. Mr Haynes, who has been fighting a Whitehall battle to protect his budget in the present spending round, said in a letter to an MP that the agency "expects to be able to maintain safety" but that many vital repair projects will have to be put off until next year or 1998.

The agency's £1.6 billion maintenance budget was cut by 4 per cent last year and is expected to be reduced again by the Chancellor in his search for public spending cuts.

Hundreds of motorway bridge and road structures built in the 1950s and 1960s need repairing because of unforeseen levels of traffic and because they were built to low specifications.

Pressure on the agency's maintenance budget has been increased by a European Union decision to allow 40-

tonne trucks into Britain from 1999. Mr Haynes said that 1,756 trunk road bridges, including 34 motorway bridges, may need strengthening.

The next big motorway closure is due in February when work begins on testing the M4 Chiswick flyover in west London for "concrete cancer". Motoring organisations have said that the work could lead to ten years of disruption.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is failing in its main duty to encourage motorists to license their vehicles, the Commons Public Accounts Committee says in a report published today.

The agency, which collects £4 billion a year and has seen an 18 per cent increase in the level of evasion since 1989, makes little effort to "go after" tax evaders or to penalise persistent offenders. The report says that shoddy collecting is costing the taxpayer £163 million a year.



Charles Kray: arrested

Kray held after drug seizure

Charles Kray, the elder brother of the Kray twins, was questioned yesterday by detectives investigating a plot to supply cocaine worth £80 million. Kray, 70, was arrested with two other men after a three-month operation in east London. Cocaine worth £60,000 was seized. In a separate initiative against drug trafficking, police made 31 arrests yesterday in raids across south London.

Synod accused

A vote of no confidence in the General Synod of the Church of England has been passed by the Lower Heyford parochial church council in Oxfordshire, which claims its agenda has been "captured" by special interest groups.

Legion's image

The Royal British Legion is to update its image with a £250,000 campaign highlighting the plight of troops in modern wars and the needs of their families. Posters will focus on conflicts in Bosnia, Rwanda and the Gulf.

Generous Getty

J. Paul Getty has donated £50,000 to the National Galleries of Scotland's appeal to save Il Guercino's *Erminia Finding the Wounded Tancrède* from being exported. The appeal has until August 15 to raise £225,624.

School fire

The 19th-century main building of Bedstone College Shropshire, has been badly damaged by fire. The blaze in the listed Calendar building, which has 365 windows and 52 rooms, broke out during redecoration.

CORRECTIONS

□ The consolidated unfunded governmental pension debt for the European Union is £10,000 billion, not £10 billion as incorrectly printed in Mr Norris McWhirter's letter of July 31.

□ Mr Robin Whitworth (obituary, July 31) was 85 when he died, not 95 as stated.

Relatives see film of sunken carrier

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

RELATIVES of some of the 42 British seamen and two wives who died in the unsolved loss of the bulk carrier *Derbyshire* have been shown video footage of the wreck on the floor of the Pacific Ocean.

The sequences, taken as part of a government-funded exploration of the wreck site, show clear views of the stern of the 160,000-tonne vessel, the biggest British vessel lost at sea. Five family members were shown the footage at a briefing by three assessors appointed to carry out the £2 million investigation ordered by the Government after an inquiry headed by Lord Donaldson.

A remote control mini-submarine equipped with three cameras spent ten hours around the wreckage of the *Derbyshire*, which sank in a typhoon in 1980 and is broken into bow and stern sections 700 yards apart.

The footage increases hopes that the cause of the loss will be revealed. The video removes one possibility, that the *Derbyshire* had run into problems in high seas after losing its rudder.

Foreign vice may have fatal charm



MEDICAL BRIEFING

IF HIV-1, subtype E, had become established in South-East Asia before the late Lord Moynihan had started his brothels, it is unlikely that he would have died a millionaire. On the same day that the High Court unravelled his matrimonial arrangements, it was reported that some doctors believe that subtype E, which is prevalent in South-East Asia, could be more readily spread by heterosexual intercourse than subtype B, the common European variant.

There seems little evidence that the HIV epidemic among heterosexuals in South-East Asia is a result of any change in the virulence of the virus. Even so, this should discourage anyone who may be planning a visit to the New Dawn of Life massage parlour in the Philippines, a significant contributor to the Moynihan fortune.

HIV types 1 and 2 have long been recognised as unstable viruses: they are subject to both mutation and recombination. As yet no mutation has produced a virulent form of HIV, so the disease has been relatively difficult to catch through heterosexual intercourse and has, seemingly, been spread only rarely by accidental infection.

When the worldwide epidemic started, the instability of the virus caused alarm and considerable public debate in the United States, whereas in Britain little was said publicly. However, Barney Hayhoe told me that while he was Health Minister in the mid 1980s this hazard was regularly dis-

cussed in the department. The prevalence of prostitution is more likely to be responsible for the spread of HIV in South-East Asia than any predilection of subtype E to attack heterosexual people.

It is rapidly becoming as dangerous to have casual sex in South-East Asia as it is in Africa. In both areas there is an acceptance of prostitution which, combined with the lack of clinics for treating sexually transmitted diseases, produces an ideal situation for spreading HIV.

In Britain we have the best clinics in the world and few women are left with chronic ulcers and sores after childbirth, the discharges from which are as good a medium as blood for HIV to flourish in.

In Asia, as in Africa, wide-spread migration spreads HIV. But the African migration is determined largely by economic necessity, whereas in Asia much of it is related to the holiday trade. Encouragingly, HIV among young men in Thailand is falling as a result of greater use of condoms, better sexual disease clinics and less use of prostitutes.

The Public Health Laboratory Service monitors HIV subtypes in England and Wales and would notice if there were an increase in one subtype which could be related to a change in the pattern of the epidemiology of the disease.

DR THOMAS
STUTTFORD

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Cards

Agency accused of treating health foods as medicine

By Robin Young

SARDINES contain so much vitamin B12 that they should be available only on prescription, it was claimed yesterday.

Maurice Hanssen, director of the Council for Responsible Nutrition, said British regulations concerning health foods and medicines were full of such anomalies.

Mr Hanssen, author of the best-selling book *E for Additives*, said: "Many other natural products could be reclassified as medicines if the Medicines Control Agency continues as it has since last December. They are so arbitrary they should be called the Medicines Out-of-Control Agency. They are seizing health supplements, vitamins and minerals and ordering them off the market in flat contradiction of stated government guidelines."

The agency, in recent moves that health food manufacturers regard as "aggressive", has banned products containing melatonin, marketed as a relief for jet lag, and questioned the status of Kira, a product based on St John's wort claimed to be a mild antidepressant. It also obliged the makers of Waterfall, a health product designed to help to maintain water balance through the menstrual cycle, to obtain a medicine licence.

The agency was established as an executive agency of the Department of Health in 1991 and became a commercial enterprise in 1993. Its main purpose is to safeguard public health with regard to medicines, for which it issues licences. Mr Hanssen said it



Vitamin-packed sardines

claimed to be implementing European legislation which declared that anything which prevents, treats or cures disease should be regarded as a medicine.

"An ordinary can of sardines contains 28 times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin B12. A health product with so much vitamin would be likely to be banned in many European countries unless it was registered as a medicine. We are in danger of being told here that sardines should only be eaten under medical supervision."

Mr Hanssen added that pork liver contains 60 times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin A; a litre of orange juice 6½ times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin C; a kipper eight times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin D; and brown rice up to nine times the recommended daily allowance of vitamin B1.

Herbal remedies such as camomile or feverfew could only be sold without the information about the conditions they were good for. "It is a ridiculous denial of information to consumers."

Anthony Bush, chairman of the Health Food Manufacturers Association, said: "The

British Government should be helping this sector promote health. Instead, their agency is treating health products as if they were medicines."

Mr Hanssen added that there was a danger that restrictive practices in some EU member states would mean upper limits being introduced for content of vitamins and minerals here. Greece, for example, had recently banned products containing more than the recommended daily allowance of any vitamin or mineral.

Maxwell Noble of Britannia Health Products added that cosmetics were also affected. He cited the case of a lip salve called VyrBrit, based on an extract of melissa (lemon balm) that could help to prevent cold sores. He said the agency initially accepted the salve as a cosmetic, but after the product's launch revoked its decision and said it must be registered as a medicine. "The whole business needs sorting out," he said.



Damon Hill, the British Formula One racing driver, relaxing at the Antibes Marineland aquatic park yesterday before his next race, in the Hungarian Grand Prix at Budapest on Sunday

Lamb and Botham consider appeal

By Joanna Bale

THE cricketers Ian Botham and Allan Lamb are "seriously considering" an appeal against their humiliating libel case defeat, their solicitor said yesterday.

"The verdict came as a great shock to them," Alan Herd of Swepstone Walsh in central London said. "They want to spend the weekend getting over it but they are seriously considering an appeal. I expect to know for sure by the beginning of next week."

The appeal must be lodged within 28 days of the verdict, which caused surprise in legal circles when it was delivered at the High Court on Wednesday. Mr Herd said that although it was a serious blow, the two men would "not find it a major problem" paying an estimated £400,000 costs for the 13-day case which they lost to the former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan. Because he made another allegation of libel distinct from his joint action with Lamb, Botham must pay two thirds of the bill — about £260,000.

Pet snakes may rival man's best friend

By Russell Jenkins and Diana Thomas

A PET boa constrictor can be good for your health and help you to live longer, according to a new study.

In a domestic setting, animal behaviourists have found that they can have the same soothing effect as a pet dog, slowing the owner's heart rate when he watches or strokes the snake.

Derek Grove, a curator at Dudley Zoo and breeder of rainbow boa constrictors, said that he enjoyed stroking the snakes he keeps in a cage in his bedroom. "I stroke them but don't let them out. They can calm you down and make very good pets."

Mr Grove, 33, who keeps other rainbow boas in cages in a garden shed, said snakes were less messy than a cat or dog and, after the cost of a cage and thermostat, were also cheaper to keep. He sells the offspring for £50 to £200.

"I feed them frozen rodents such as rats or mice, which I thaw out. A rat costs 35p and, depending on the size of the snake, many need to be fed only once a week," he said.

Dogs and cats are known to have a beneficial effect on people with heart problems and are often recommended for patients recuperating from heart surgery. Timothy Eddy, of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, studied the effect of more exotic pets. In one experiment, published for a pet therapy conference at Cambridge University, he measured the cardiac responses of a herpetologist to his 10-year-old boa constrictor.

Heart rate and blood pressure relaxed significantly when he was near the snake. Mr Eddy concluded that a wider range of animals should be considered as pets.



St John's wort

Hedgerow herb 'beats pills for depression'

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE herb St John's wort is better than pills for banishing depression, according to German and American doctors. They say the wild relation of gardeners' hypericum is just as effective as drugs and has fewer side effects.

Used for years in Germany as a folk medicine, *Hypericum perforatum* is virtually unknown to doctors in English-speaking countries. The 2ft plant with five-petalled yellow flowers grows in hedgebanks, woods and rough grassland.

In Germany, the seven leading preparations using extracts from St John's wort account for 2.7 million prescriptions a year worth £26 million. Dr Klaus Linde of Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich, led colleagues and doctors from the Veterans Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, in examining the results of trials of the plant. They report in the *British Medical Journal* that it equalled the effect of standard antidepressants in treating mild to moderately severe depressive illness. The side-effects of the herbal remedy were lower.

But the doctors add that the trials were too small to be statistically certain. They call for further tests comparing St John's wort directly with antidepressants.

In an editorial in the journal, two Dutch doctors say that to be accepted as a treatment for major depression, the herb would have to meet the same rigorous demands laid down for synthetic antidepressants and that the studies cited by Dr Linde and his colleagues do not meet these criteria. But they say that the safety and tolerability of St John's wort argue in its favour and that bigger trials are justified.



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But your tastebuds tell you something is wrong. Your Beck's is not your Beck's. And do you know why? Because in pursuit of European harmonisation it has been decreed that all bier must now be brewed with 'standardised' water.

Well fear not British friend. Because with your support and our dogged adherence to the Reinheitsgebot (our brewers' purity law), you'll never find a hint of Brussels in a bottle of Beck's.

Yes we salute Brussels' safety standards and respect their commitment to the environment. But when it comes to our bier it's no, nein, non.



BREWED IN BREMEN GERMANY SINCE 1874



Derek Grove soothing

Birmingham will save space by switching hundreds of staff to teleworking and 'hot-desking'

Council to cut costs with stay-at-home technology

By IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S largest local authority is to ask hundreds of staff to work from home or share desks in a drive to save £50 million a year.

Birmingham City Council hopes to make the savings by cutting its 750,000 sq ft of office space by 20 per cent this year and 10 per cent next year. If the experiment works, the council will be able to sell 225,000 sq ft of prime office space.

A small number of volunteers will be equipped with a home office including computer, an extra telephone line and answering machine, a fax and a modem to link them

to city hall. Each set of equipment will cost about £3,000.

Most of those who normally spend a large part of their working time out of the office will be asked to take part in a "hot-desking" scheme, where they can book times in advance to do necessary office work. This will avoid equipment and space standing idle for long periods.

Four staff in the council's consultancy division already work from home. Steve Trivett, 47, from Evesham in Hereford and Worcester, set up his home office a few weeks ago, ending the need to make the one-hour drive into Birmingham and home again each

day. He recommends the change: "You can work at times to suit yourself."

Birmingham is the largest employer to use teleworking, although other local authorities, banks, building societies and computer firms have been issuing workers with stay-at-home technology. The council expects that within the next 18 months about 7,000 of its 39,000 staff will no longer be working from home. At most a few hundred will be equipped to work from home. The majority will be supplied with high-tech equipment such as electronic notepads with modems.

Mary Mallet, the council's per-

sonnel director, said: "We are also looking at ways of storing documents by image processing so that we do not need all the space currently used for records. The idea is to free the money locked up in bricks so that it can be used to provide services for the people. The idea of people stuck at home chained to a word processor in the bedroom is quite wrong. We want a highly mobile staff, well-equipped to work out of the office and not stuck at home."

According to Alan Deighton, executive director of the Teleworker Centre Association, the system increases productivity, decreases staff turnover and is the perfect

antidote to commuting difficulties. "The average Londoner spends 57 minutes travelling each way to work, the equivalent of nearly 1½ working days in a five-day week," he said. "That is wasted time."

He said the system was particularly good for services where employees had to pay site visits or see customers in their own homes or offices. "Staff do not have to waste time going back to their own office to write up reports, but can download from their own home or from a local satellite telecentre. It saves time and helps the environment by not clogging up the roads."

However, he said that the idea does not work if it is introduced

just to save money. "There should be no coercion and there have to be regular staff meetings so they can keep in touch with what is happening. They must not be allowed to think that if they are out of sight they are out of mind."

Mark Copes, project manager for a pilot scheme being introduced by Surrey County Council next month, said the system had the long-term potential to change service delivery in local government. "Budgets are getting tighter and demand is increasing so we have got to find new ways of improving services," he said.

Surrey has spent £150,000 on the pilot project, equipping an office in

Epsom with desks, computers and support staff to help employees to send work down the line to county hall. The centre will be available for use by some staff living in the area so they do not have to travel up to an hour to work.

Forty Hertfordshire County Council trading standards inspectors have been using laptop computers to compile reports in their home for a year. The department now needs only one floor of an office block instead of two entire buildings for its records and staff. The council is also about to open a network of satellite computer offices where staff can use equipment linked to county hall.

Tourists opt for England's green and pleasant land

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAYMAKERS are spurning the heat, sea and sand of the Mediterranean, and the Caribbean, to stay in England. The tourism industry is booming, and last year 3.3 million British holidaymakers spent £7 billion enjoying themselves in England.

Domestic tourism trips rose by 10 per cent last year and domestic holiday spending rose 3 per cent. The most popular destination was the West Country. The number of British visitors to London rose by 22 per cent; the number who went to Northumberland by 25 per cent. Tourism officials put the increase down to last year's summer of sunshine and to improved facilities for tourists in England.

"England is well placed to capture holidaymakers tired of airport delays, standardised facilities and excessive heat, who prefer instead 'greener', more active and rewarding holidays," the chief executive of the English Tourist Board, Tim Bartlett, said yesterday. However, £3.7 billion more a year is still spent on foreign rather than domestic holidays,

and tourism chiefs are determined to make it easier to book an English holiday.

Among the proposals being considered is for local retailers to fund high-technology equipment in tourist information centres and for travel agents to spend more time selling domestic packages to holidaymakers. The board's chairman, David Quarmby, said: "I am aware how frustrating it can be when you cannot find what you want, or do not know even where to start looking. My personal view is that the information revolution has so far passed the tourist industry by. There is a massive opportunity to develop information infrastructure and to make available new services on travel, attractions, accommodation and eating out."

Mr Quarmby, presenting the tourist board's annual report in London, said that it could not pay for the introduction of the high-technology equipment but was looking at whether travel agents and local businesses might do so.

Leading article, page 17

HOLIDAY SPENDING

Destination	trips (m)	% rise	spend (£m)
West Country	15.8	5	2,220
Southern	12.4	17	1,100
East Anglia	11	8	980
London	10.4	21	880
Heart of England	10.2	10	850
North West	9.6	12	715
South East	8.9	13	725
East Midlands	8	5	710
Northumbria	3.8	23	370
Cumbria	3.3	14	410



The hotel's tariff card on its opening in 1896, when a seawater bedroom bath cost a shilling and there was no charge for afternoon tea

Hotel celebrates 100 years of family service

By ROBIN YOUNG

AN HOTEL that yesterday celebrated 100 years of service to visitors to East Sussex is thought to be unique in Britain in having been owned and managed by one family.

The York House Hotel in Eastbourne has had to mark its centenary alone after advertising to find other establishments that could match the claim, but none came forward. It celebrated by treating guests to Victorian charabanc rides along the seafront, and a newscast for 1896, read by the veteran radio presenter Alan Freeman with items gleaned from *The Times* of 100 years ago.

The 90-room hotel, which is listed with two stars in the AA and RAC guides, started as a boarding house opened by Susanna Barratt and her 18-year-old daughter, Sarah, on August 1, 1896. That year they achieved a turnover of £156 and were soon able to

buy the leases of neighbouring properties. Mrs Barratt died in 1902 leaving the hotel to Sarah, who in 1904 married Douglas Williamson, from Catford, one of the young Londoners who cycled down for holidays in her hotel. It is their grandson, Matthew Williamson, who owns and runs the hotel today.

By 1917 the hotel's turnover reached £6,576. Only 8 per cent went on wages though all the water for the bedrooms had to be fetched. Visitors could also request fresh sea water to bathe in and have coal fires in their rooms.

In the 1920s the hotel made headlines when some of its residents, protesting at a shortage of changing facilities on Eastbourne beach, braved arrest by trooping across the parade already wearing swimming costumes. Sarah Williamson died in 1930 by which time she had become chairman

PRICES 1896-1996

Cost per person for dinner, bed and breakfast at the York House Hotel	1896	1996
1896	£1 8s	(£1.40)
1906	£2 12s 6d	(£2.62)
1916	£2 12s 6d	(£2.62)
1926	£3 13s 6d	(£3.67)
1936	£5 5s	(£5.25)
1946	£15 15s	(£15.75)
1956	£11 8d	(£11.2)
1966	£15 15s	(£15.75)
1976	£21	
1986	£164	
1996	£252	

of the Eastbourne Hotels' Association. The business was carried on by three of her children. In 1932 fitted basins were installed in some rooms, with coke-fired boilers supplying hot water to the whole hotel. The York House was closed and damaged during the Second World War, but

was reopened in 1945 by Sarah's son, Alan. A lift was installed in 1962.

Matthew Williamson, Alan's son, took over as manager in 1972 after training in Britain and Bermuda. His first step was to apply for a residential liquor licence and open a bar. A laundry came in 1975, an electric service lift in 1977, the first private bathrooms in 1978, and a heated indoor swimming pool in 1983.

A direct-dial telephone system to all bedrooms was introduced in 1991, and the final corridor links between the individual houses that make up the hotel were completed in 1994. The hotel's celebrations this week end with a seafood party on Sunday.

Mr Williamson said: "We are very proud and pleased at what appears to be a unique family history in hotel management. Our prices over the years also show that we have survived what I calculate to have been 2,200 per cent inflation."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lorry kills AA man on hard shoulder

An AA patrolman and a passenger in a stranded car were killed when a lorry crashed into them on a motorway hard shoulder. John Jones, 46, died when the Parcel Line articulated lorry veered off the northbound M40 near Gaydon, Warwickshire, on Wednesday night, hitting his AA van and the car on which he was working. The second victim was Zafar Ali Khan, 40, of Dudley, West Midlands. The car driver, Tariq Hamayum, 19, is seriously ill with broken ribs and legs and neck injuries. Anthony Young, 59, the lorry driver, of Reading, suffered shock.

Bound over

Ray Kennedy, 45, the former England, Arsenal and Liverpool football player who has Parkinson's disease, was bound over by magistrates in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, to keep the peace after a disturbance at the home of his former girlfriend, Audrey Broomfield, 34.

Cyanide deaths

An Asian family of five found dead in May were killed by injections of potassium cyanide. Southampton coroner's office said. Tests have shown that Mahendra Karia, 42, his wife Mayuri, 39, and their daughters would have died quickly and painlessly. An inquest will open on Tuesday.

Granny banned

A 76-year-old grandmother who stuck her tongue out at teenagers trying to stop her turning the wrong way down a dual carriageway was banned for a year. Ruby Thomsett, of Boughton Monchelsea, Kent, hit another car but drove on. She denied dangerous driving.

Row brewing

A Welsh brewery has named a beer after the former commander of the Free Wales Army, Julian Cayo Evans. Thomas Watkins and Sons of Llandello, Dyfed, said Evans would be a folk hero in years to come. Richard Lewis, a councillor, accused the brewery of honouring a terrorist.

Boiler charges

The landlord of a bedsitter in Durham where Anne Brennan, 19, died from carbon monoxide poisoning from a boiler, is to be prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive. Graham Williams and the engineer who fitted the boiler, Edgar Reed Maddison, face five charges.

Caught out

A cricket club treasurer who conned a travel agent out of almost £18,000 to try to cover up his own dishonesty has been jailed for 18 months by Maidstone Crown Court. Andrew Cooper, 35, of Gaston, Kent, stole from club funds that he was holding for a planned tour of Barbados.

P-reg tragedy

A retired doctor was killed when his new P-registered car crashed into a lampost hours after he had collected it from a garage at Dudley, West Midlands, on the first day of the new registration. The £22,000 Saab 9000CD of Dr John Donaldson, 80, had 23 miles on the clock.

Degree honoured

A woman who was strangled five months before the end of her degree course at Hope University College, Liverpool, has graduated posthumously. Hilda Farrell accepted the degree on behalf of her daughter, Lesley Filling, 36. A man has been charged with murder.

Weather, page 20

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Treasure experts bury hope of fortune

TWO treasure hunters and a farmer who believed they were worth a million pounds after finding Celtic and Roman coins and jewellery have been told the haul is worth £103,000.

Peter Beasley and Peter Murphy of Waterlooville, Hampshire, used metal detectors to unearth the haul on farmland near Petersfield in March. They agreed to share proceeds equally with the landowner, John Dalton.

The 256 coins helped historians to identify a Celtic king, Tincmarus, who ruled about 50 BC, and shed light on trade between the Romans and tribes in the south of England. A panel of experts appointed by the Department of National Heritage decided that the hoard's solid gold Roman bracelet was worth £1,650, a gold ring £2,350 and the coins £99,074.

Mr Beasley, 56, a bricklayer, said: "Letters from the British Museum have continually emphasised the historical value of the find. It seems to me that the committee has completely ignored this in valuing the coins and the jewellery." He and Mr Murphy had hoped the coins alone would be worth £900,000.

The committee took into account three independent valuations and the museum's estimate. Sotheby's said: "Huge numbers of coins are recovered. The laws of supply and demand dictate that the price will inevitably fall." The museum hopes to raise money to buy the hoard.

A guide to Roman Britain starts in *The Times* tomorrow.



One of the young

Seahorses to colonise coastline

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

YOUNG spiny seahorses are being dispatched to 16 sites this week in preparation for an attempt to re-establish them around the coast.

The young, 3cm long, were among the first to be bred in captivity in Britain. Seahorses were thought to have died out around the coast, but last summer fishermen off Weymouth found seven in their nets. They bred in June at the resort's Sea Life Centre and some of the offspring are being sent to other centres ready for release next year.

Mark Oakley, of Sea Life Centres, said divers had been asked to search for more wild colonies. "They will be the ideal places to release our seahorses."

Weather in July lives up to tradition

By DIANA THORP

BRITAIN was occasionally hotter than the Mediterranean, three women were struck by lightning at a Buckingham Palace garden party and Wimbledon was drenched with rain as the country enjoyed "a typical summer's month" in July.

July 1996 was slightly warmer, sunnier and drier than average. But a spokesman from the Meteorological Office said: "It was no record breaker."

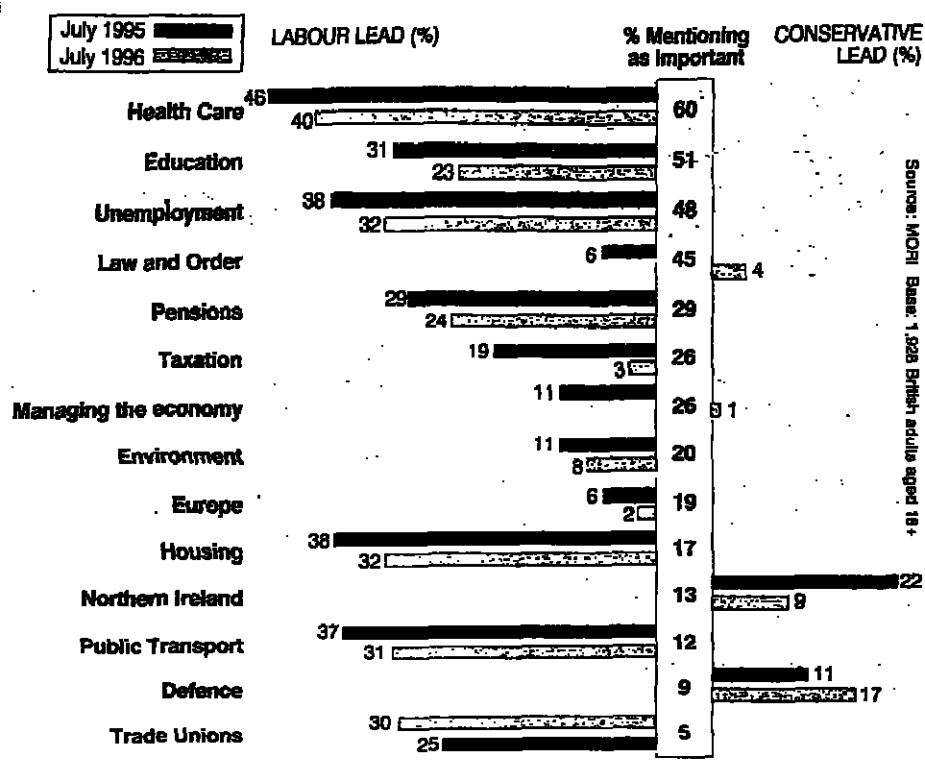
The hottest day of the year so far was July 22 when it soared to 33C in Jersey, compared to last year's high of 35.2C recorded in Boxworth, Cambridgeshire, on August 1. The average central England temperature was 16.5C, only slightly warmer than the 30-year average of 16.1C and lower than the average last July of 18.6C.

But with an average of 7.37 hours of sunshine each day, July 1996 was not only sunnier than the average 5.96 hours, but also sunnier than 1995 when the country caught only 7.16 hours of sunshine a day in July. It was the 15th sunniest July since records began in 1909.

Just when Shetlanders were thinking their cold summer could not get any worse, it snowed yesterday. Meteorologists described it as "soft hail", but Ian Anderson, a Lerwick radio presenter who saw it through his studio window at 6am, said: "It seemed like snow to me."

WHO'S AHEAD ON WHICH ISSUE?

Q For each one, tell me whether you think the Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats or some other party has the best policy.



Labour retains clear lead, MORI poll shows

Tories regain lost ground on crime and the economy

By PETER RIDDELL

THE Tories have recovered to move ahead of Labour as the party having the best policies on law and order and managing the economy, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*. Labour, however, still has a clear lead on eight of the top ten issues (and ten of the top 14) that people believe will be very important to them in voting at the general election.

In order of importance, Labour is rated as best on healthcare, education, unemployment, pensions, taxation, the environment, Europe, housing, public transport and trade unions. The Tories now lead on law and order (ranked

fourth), managing the economy (sixth), Northern Ireland (eleventh), and defence (thirteenth). Labour had been ahead on managing the economy since the last general election and ahead on law and order since May 1994, reversing long periods of traditional Tory dominance on these issues. The Tories have improved their position on all 14 of the issues except Northern Ireland where the party has probably suffered from the handling of the Orange Order marches last month.

The biggest improvements for the Tories over the past year have occurred in taxation, managing the economy

and law and order. This ties in with the gradual improvement in economic optimism. Tory strategists will be pleased that above-average shifts have occurred on these issues among the very group they are appealing to now — those who have switched away from the party since the 1992 election. Nonetheless, the Tories are still very weak on the main economic issues among this group compared with party loyalists.

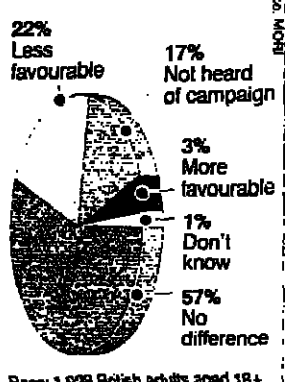
Europe has moved only from tenth most important issue to ninth. It is regarded as "very important" by 19 per cent of the public compared with 60 per cent for healthcare. Labour supporters

seem to be firmer in their confidence in their party's policies than do Tory supporters. Whereas Tory loyalists mention their party as having the best policies on an average of 7.4 issues, the score is 8.2 for Labour loyalists and is as much as 6.5 among supporters new to Labour since the 1992 election.

It is also revealing that while readers of *The Daily Telegraph* rate the Tories as best on twice as many policies as Labour, readers of the *Daily Mail* and *The Times* rate the two main parties best on an equal number of issues. MORI interviewed 1,928 adults at 149 ward sampling points between July 23 and 28.

"NEW LABOUR, NEW DANGER"

Q Has this campaign made you more or less favourable towards the Conservative Party?



"Danger" ads fail

THE Tories' "New Labour, New Danger" advertising campaign, with its dramatic black-and-red posters showing sinister eyes looking out from behind a curtain, has so far backfired, according to the MORI poll (Peter Riddell writes).

A mere 4 per cent say the campaign has made them less favourable towards Labour, while 11 per cent say it has made them more favourable. The £5 million campaign might have damaged the Tories: 22 per cent say it has made them less favourable towards the party, with a mere 3 per cent claiming it had made them more favourable. The posters have even failed to affect the Tories' main target group of switch voters: 22 per cent of new supporters of Labour say it has made them more favourable to Labour.

Hostility to Major abates, but it may be too late to save his party

THE Tories are beginning to claw back some ground in the opinion polls, but their recovery is still slow and patchy. The positive news for the party is that, leaving aside monthly fluctuations, its underlying rating is improving slowly. Optimism about the economy is rising and the public are becoming less hostile to the Government and to John Major personally over their performance in office.

The MORI economic optimism index, which gauges how many think that the general economic condition will improve against those

who think it will get worse, now stands at minus nine points. The average index for April to July is half the deficit of the previous four months.

Moreover, the Tories have made some headway in winning back support on key issues such as the economy, taxation, and law and order, particularly among those who have deserted the party since 1992. If consumer confidence and spending continue to grow, there could be further benefits for the Tories.

Mr Major himself also retains a

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

personal appeal, among some Liberal Democrats and new Labour supporters.

Nonetheless, Labour remains in a commanding position — in sustaining its overall lead and on most of the key issues that worry voters, such as healthcare, education and unemployment.

The Tory recovery, such as it is, is smaller and later than Labour strategists feared. And there is evidence that new Labour support-

ers are affirming their commitment to the party.

There are a few reasons for Labour to reflect. The party has not fully got rid of its "tax and spend" image, nor really convinced people about how it could make a positive difference in office, despite the launch of its mini-manifesto.

Mr Blair remains the party's main asset. So Labour strategists are puzzling over the sharp fall last month in his personal approval

rating (those satisfied minus those dissatisfied with his performance) to the lowest level of his two-year leadership. This may be explained in part by the publicity over the Shadow Cabinet elections and the "demon" of Clare Short. Mr Blair's advisers believe that assertions of strong leadership by him have helped the party, but on this occasion that may have been offset by the impression of divisions.

It could be a temporary decline, but the other parties believe that Labour is vulnerable to charges of being arrogant and taking voters for

granted. It is striking that the decline in Mr Blair's personal rating was far larger among supporters of Labour since 1992 (from plus 61 to plus 41 points) than among long-term Labour loyalists (from plus 59 to plus 47).

These shifts are small compared with the seismic change in attitudes triggered by Black Wednesday, the battles over the Maastricht treaty and the tax rises of the first half of the Parliament. The Tories now have an unprecedented 53 point gap to close before those troubles the gap was 29 points.

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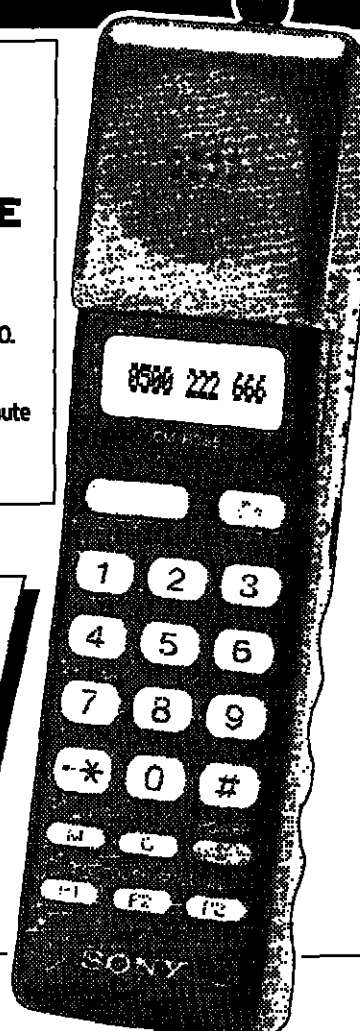
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Home Office hits back at claim by firearms lobby

By RICHARD FORD AND ALICE THOMSON

THE Home Office last night rejected the gun lobby's attempt to undermine the argument linking the availability of firearms to violent crime.

Officials published a strong defence of the Home Office's evidence to Lord Cullen's inquiry into the Dunblane massacre, emphasising strong links between the ownership of guns and gun-related homicide. The paper was released after the gun lobby had told the inquiry that the government figures were unreliable.

Yesterday the Home Office said supporters of the gun lobby had failed to challenge evidence indicating a relationship between gun ownership and gun homicide. They also said that the lobby had not undermined evidence that gun ownership increased overall homicide rates.

In an additional submission

Police chief fines careless marksmen

FIVE police firearms experts whose Smith and Wesson revolvers fell out of a van were each fined £400 by their chief constable yesterday.

They were returning to Nottinghamshire police headquarters after a shooting practice last August when a holdall containing the guns tumbled through a side door left open to keep the officers cool.

They were picked up by two men in a following car who sold them to a convicted drug dealer. He planned to sell them to criminal contacts but lost his nerve and dumped them in a ditch. Four men were later jailed for plotting to sell the guns.

to Lord Cullen's inquiry, the Home Office emphasises the links between gun ownership and the incidence of violent crime. It had been asked to produce the document after the gun lobby claimed it had submitted evidence which "destroyed" research findings linking gun ownership with high levels of gun homicide. The Home Office document also said that it was significant "that no serious challenge was made of the similar correlation between gun ownership and gun-related suicides, or of the fact that extremely marked differences in gun-related crime in the US compared to England and Wales are not echoed in offences in which guns are not involved".

The Home Office emphasised that the document did not constitute government policy, and did not prejudice the response the Government would eventually make to the Cullen report. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has indicated that he will bring forward a Bill for new gun controls should Lord Cullen make proposals in his report that require legislation.

Donald Dewar, Labour's Chief Whip, said yesterday that Labour MPs would vote with the Government if John Major faced down his backbenchers and legislated to ban handguns. Mr Dewar said that the Prime Minister should not wait until Lord Cullen's report is published this autumn but end the confusion over where the Government stood.

He said that the Government would then face a backlash from at least a dozen of its own backbenchers, as well as the six Conservative MPs on the Home Affairs Select Committee who have already stated that they would be opposed to such a Bill.

Britain launches fast-reaction force

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A RAPID deployment force to react to a range of crises worldwide was officially launched yesterday. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said that some of the joint Services' force of up to 10,000 troops would be on 24-hour notice and others on five-days' alert.

The core of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force is provided by units of 3 Commando Brigade and 5 Airborne Brigade, with other elements of the Army, RAF and Royal Navy assigned to provide additional combat power, including an aircraft carrier, Tornado squadrons and submarines.

This is the first time that the Ministry of Defence has formed a triservice rapidly deployable force, backed up by

a permanent staff. They are preparing for such emergencies as evacuating British citizens from foreign conflicts or acting as the bridgehead in war zones for follow-on troops and armour.

Brigadier Jonathan Thomson, a former commander of the Royal Marines' Special Boat Service, has been appointed the force's first chief. He operates from a new permanent joint headquarters at Northwood that cost £7 million to set up and will cost £16 million a year to run.

Although the force of up to reinforced brigade strength will not be equipped with tanks or heavy artillery, Mr Portillo said that the intention was to provide the framework for a larger and heavier force if required.

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Iraq loses flag-bearer as weightlifter defects

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN ATLANTA

IRAQ'S flag-bearer at the Atlanta Olympics, after dramatically defecting, yesterday described his homeland as a "concentration camp" and accused General Ali Hassan al-Majid, a cousin of President Saddam Hussein, of atrocities.

Raed Ahmed, a member of Iraq's weightlifting squad, eluded his team manager and colleagues at the Olympic village. After breakfast on Wednesday, he left the dining room on the pretext of needing to check something on a computer. Instead, he ran to his room, stuffed some belongings in a bag and fled the athletes' village.

Yesterday, accompanied by a lawyer and an interpreter, he was interviewed by immigration officials after requesting asylum. He will be given an answer in a few days.

Mr Ahmed, 29, has a wife in Basra, the southern Iraqi city. He was confident that she was safe after her removal to an undisclosed address by opponents of Saddam. However,



other members of his family are still in Basra, and he said that he was "frightened" about their future.

"I love my country," said Mr Ahmed at a news conference. He said he was still proud that he had carried the Iraqi flag at the opening ceremony of the Games. "I just don't like the regime," he said.

Looking composed, he said his defection was a statement against the oppression of Saddam. Before coming to Atlanta with the five-strong

Iraqi delegation he was ordered not to discuss his country's politics with journalists or to mention the name of Saddam. He said he had trained for the Olympics to have the opportunity to defect "but also to win medals".

He added: "When carrying my country's flag I was thinking that I would like to see the flag represent my people, not Saddam Hussein and his war against the United States. The situation in Iraq now is terrible. There is a lack of food and drinking water."

He claimed that during the Gulf War he saw Iraqi officials planting explosives in towns in order to falsify US bombing of civilian targets.

He claimed also to have seen General al-Majid, the Governor of Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation, killing people after an unsuccessful assassination attempt. In March 1991, he said, "I witnessed al-Majid putting people up against a wall and executing them. I imagine that if he hears I have said this he will hurt my family."

Mr Ahmed said that President Clinton helped to inspire

his decision to defect. At the opening ceremony of the Games, he said, "we were told by Iraqi officials to turn our heads away from Mr Clinton. We were told that he wanted to destroy Iraq. Everybody else in our group looked away from President Clinton. They were not men. But I turned my head and looked at him and I could not believe my eyes. He was standing and applauding for us. I know that, if the Games were in Iraq, Saddam would not clap for the US."

Mr Ahmed's defection was co-ordinated by the London-based Iraqi National Congress, a dissident group which hopes to overthrow Saddam. Mr Ahmed said that he had been thinking about defecting for some time. He had received "bad medical care" in Iraq for his sporting injuries and was struck by the amiability of Western weightlifters and coaches at the Games.

He is the first non-Cuban athlete to defect at the Atlanta Games.

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Letters, page 17
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Raed Ahmed carrying the Iraqi flag into the Olympic stadium

Taipei farmer presses claim to Games song

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN TAIPEI

A TAIWANESE tribesman was delighted to learn that his singing was used to promote the Olympics. Now he just wants to get paid for it. Kuo Ying-san, 70, and his wife, Hsiang-chia, sang the soaring harmonies in Enigma's *Return to Innocence*, which was used in advertising the Atlanta Games. Mr Kuo, who said he had not been paid for the song, said: "We saw the advertisement on television and were really happy, but then I was sad when I realised I hadn't got any credit and nobody knew that it was a Taiwanese person singing."

Mr Kuo, a farmer, said he only learnt of Enigma's song when a friend heard it on the radio and recognised his voice. With the help of a record company that is producing some of their songs, the Kuos are pressing the parties involved to prove that they obtained the couple's permission to use the song — which they say they never gave — or pay damages.

The Kuos, who are members of the Amis tribe and speak only Amis dialect, were recorded in 1983 singing a tribal hymn, *Baleba*, during a tour of Europe. France's *Maison des Cultures du Monde*, which co-sponsored the tour, sold the rights to Michael Creu, a Romanian-German producer who records as Enigma.

□ Atlanta: Two table tennis spectators were arrested for fighting after police tried to remove one of them for waving a banned Taiwan flag. Flags, other than those of competing countries, are prohibited from the stands and, to placate China, Taiwan participates under a special banner. (AP)

Detectives search rural cabin of Atlanta suspect

FROM REUTER IN ATLANTA

INVESTIGATORS yesterday sifted through material seized from the flat and rural cabin of an Olympic security guard, but the FBI said no charges were imminent over the Centennial Park bombing.

Louis Freeh, the FBI director, told a congressional hearing in Washington: "Nobody is about to be charged with a crime." He added that investigators had "a number of good leads and a number of suspects they are looking at". An FBI spokesman in Atlanta said that Richard Jewell, the security guard earlier hailed as a hero in Saturday's blast, was still considered a suspect.

Mr Freeh said the FBI had found no evidence of an international terrorist or "sophisticated" group threatening the Olympics. This confirmed speculation that the crude pipe bomb attack could have been carried out by an individual or a domestic extremist militia organisation.

Federal agents and forensic teams scoured Jewell's Atlanta flat all day on Wednesday. They also searched a cabin in northeast Georgia where Mr Jewell lived until last May.

Mr Jewell remained inside his flat yesterday with a large number of journalists and cameramen and a police squad car outside. Police said the journalists would be moved away because of complaints from residents.

Watson Bryant, Mr Jewell's

lawyer, strongly criticised the conduct of the FBI investigation. "It is unforgivable... it shouldn't be done under these circumstances... what we do object to is some skunk in the Government leaking it to the media," Mr Bryant said.

He said Mr Jewell was going through hell and added: "He is holding up as well as can be expected."

Federal agents took several boxes of material away from the flat that Mr Jewell shares with his mother in a working-class suburb. They also inspected the area with a bomb sniffing dog and for a while evacuated local residents. A spokeswoman said the material was being examined yesterday with some sent to an FBI laboratory in Washington.

Mr Jewell, who says he is innocent, was widely interviewed by television stations and newspapers after the blast in which two people died and 110 were injured. He alerted police to a knapsack containing the bomb but it exploded, spraying nails and screws, while they were trying to evacuate the packed rock-concert crowd.

□ Albany, Georgia: Police said that Walton Burdon, who was on parole, has been charged with breaking into the house of Alice Hawthorne, who was killed by the Olympic bomb, when her husband was making funeral arrangements. (Reuters)

Train official sends a London cab to Dundee

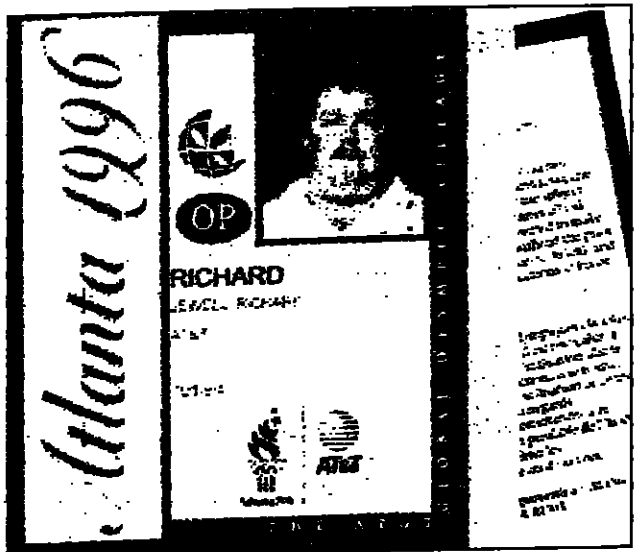
A LONDON cab driver has been sent to Dundee, Scotland, after a train official accused him of being a terrorist. The driver, who was on his way to work, was stopped by police and taken to a police station. He was then released after a short stay. The train official, who was also a police officer, accused the driver of being a member of a terrorist organisation. The driver denied the accusation and said he was a taxi driver from London. The incident has caused a stir in the local community, as Dundee is a known hotbed for terrorism. The driver is now being monitored by the police.



Today the world. Tomorrow Scotland?

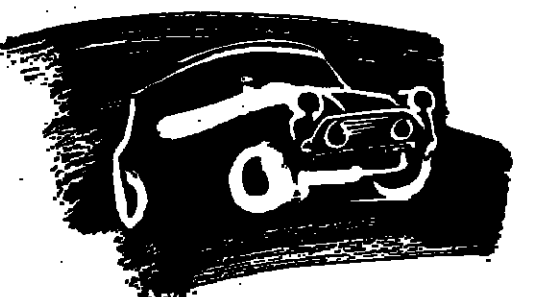
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UNITED AIRLINES



Suspect Richard Jewell's security guard credentials

TEAR AWAY.



MINI

Sweeping benefit reforms bring fears of hardship for America's neediest and youngest citizens

Redwood cheers as US rolls back 60 years of welfare

FROM TOM RHODES AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

JOHN REDWOOD last night endorsed an American welfare reform Bill that reverses the New Deal philosophy of Franklin Roosevelt and eliminates more than six decades of guaranteed federal government assistance to millions in the United States.

One of the strongest proponents of welfare reform in Britain, Mr Redwood said in Washington that Whitehall was proceeding along a different path but that the goals were similar in both countries. "I congratulate your Republican Congress and your President on the welfare Bill," said Mr Redwood. "Welfare is one of those problems that affects all the great industrialised nations of the world. We have outgrown the welfare of the immediate postwar period and it is right that administrators and politicians are changing their welfare system for the 21st century."

Mr Redwood, who resigned from the Cabinet last year to challenge John Major for the party leadership, is aiming to enhance his reputation as a Tory leader-in-waiting during his visit to the United States. His proposals for welfare reform would not follow the present American example of cutting entitlements, he said, but would concentrate on future incentives to ensure pensions for the retired workforce and to encourage greater family responsibility in raising children.

Nevertheless, there is little

question that the American model will resonate in Britain, just as Roosevelt's New Deal became an inspiration for the British welfare state.

It is now more than 60 years since Roosevelt rescued America from its era of deepest gloom, whose haunting images of dole queues and soup kitchens were forever captured in *Buddy, Can You Spare A Dime?* — the song which became a symbol of the Depression.

That guarantee of "some measure of protection to the

average citizen", that poor children and their families would be entitled to benefits, grew into a welfare debate that now embraces 12 million people, massive fraud and a catalogue of malfeasance.

In a fundamental shift in philosophy, the American welfare gravy train was brought to an effective terminus this week with the new Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act that President Clinton has agreed to sign. The Bill ends the 61-year-old federal guarantee of assistance for poor children, passing the responsibility to the states which will receive grants to operate their own welfare programmes. There will be a five-year lifetime limit on welfare benefits, recipients will have to go on welfare, food stamps will be cut and legal immigrants barred from most benefits. The Bill will reduce projected spending by \$55 billion (£35.4 billion) over six years.

The ideas of the New Deal gave the federal government a role in the lives of every American individual as never before. It provided jobs, welfare and a control on the economy. In the 1960s, Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society" legislation crafted an even stronger safety net with the introduction of Medicare.

It was not until Ronald Reagan ran for the White House that the notion of curbing government largesse was raised. He claimed that



Henry Fonda in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Steinbeck's story of life and hard times in the Depression. Roosevelt's New Deal rescued America from that era, and later inspired the British welfare system

"welfare queens" were arriving to collect benefit cheques in limousines and fur coats. These characters were never actually seen.

In 1992, Bill Clinton made perhaps his most popular campaign promise to "end welfare as we know it". For three years he has struggled to achieve that goal without either destroying his ideological base or creating a schism between moderates and liberals in the Democratic Party.

Republicans have known since they captured control of Congress two years ago that they had the President in a corner. They forced him to

veto two previous welfare reform Bills that he felt went too far in undermining core liberal values. With the election less than 100 days away, however, both sides needed a Bill to offer the electorate.

Mr Clinton and Congress can now claim separate victories while liberal Democrats and, ironically, Bob Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, are seen as the losers. Mr Dole, no longer in the Senate, was reduced to claiming authorship of the legislation and scoffed at Mr Clinton's "election-year conversion".

The legislation propels enormous responsibility to the

50 states, many of which have already tested parts of the programme. Wisconsin is now saving \$12 million a month and has reduced its welfare case-load by 40 per cent through welfare.

Recipients are required, as a condition of receiving benefits, to spend seven hours a day searching for a job. Although many have trouble finding anything that will lift them above the poverty level, successful applicants only have praise for the scheme.

No-one now knows what hardships the legislation may impose on America's neediest and youngest citizens, nor how

it will affect such backward states as Mississippi where Third World conditions of poverty exist. The *New York Times*, in an editorial, described it as a "sad day for poor children" and predicted that the effect on cities with large immigrant populations would be devastating.

"It is not humane to remove a federal guarantee of welfare aid and create the leeway for additional punitive cuts at the state level," it said. "A Bill that creates child poverty is not an acceptable way to end welfare as we know it."

Leading article, page 17

The buck stops at California county

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE prospect of federal welfare reform has been greeted with dismay in America's most populous county, amid warnings of municipal bankruptcy.

Less than a year after its worst financial crisis, Los Angeles County now faces the task of providing a financial safety net for one in five of America's legal immigrants. "It's devastating to the county," Gloria Molina, a supervisor and staunch ally of President Clinton, said of the welfare Bill which could deprive 400,000 constituents of federal aid. "This is probably going to bankrupt us."

In an editorial headed "Welfare Reform at California's Expense," the *Los Angeles Times* wrote: "Expect lines of elderly, blind or disabled immigrants at relief agencies, for they will no longer be eligible for federal benefits." An estimated 93,000 immigrants in Los Angeles County will lose federal income support worth \$236 million (£152 million) a year, officials say. The new Bill will also leave state bodies to decide whether about 200,000 legal immigrant families — many of them Russians and Eastern Europeans with scant grasp of English or capitalism — are entitled to food stamps, child support and healthcare.

California as a whole will forgo \$10 billion it had been expecting from the federal Government over the next six years. Half of that had been earmarked for Los Angeles County, officials say.

Township protesters set fire to train

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

A TRAIN was set alight yesterday in Tembisa, 20 miles northeast of Johannesburg, as township residents vowed to continue their protest after the deaths of 15 people in a station stampede.

With tension still running high after clashes between police and youths the previous day, firefighters were called yesterday to extinguish a blaze on a commuter train. No one was injured. The township stations were almost deserted as residents heeded a call to boycott Metro Rail trains in protest at the tragedy.

Residents have pledged to conduct an arson campaign to protest at the appalling transport conditions in the township and the heavy-handed use of force by security guards at the main commuter station.

The guards have been accused of provoking a stampede by firing shots and using electric batons on commuters. Metro Rail yesterday withdrew its security personnel for fear of aggravating the situation after youths had threatened to lynch the men.

News of simmering unrest in Tembisa coincided with calls for a clampdown on the use of electric batons. Amnesty International South Africa said yesterday that it had previously called for a ban on the use of "electric shock weapons" until regulations governing their manufacture, sale and use were in place and called on the Government to take urgent action.

Witnesses to Wednesday's tragedy claimed that security guards had inflicted injuries

on commuters by pressing batons on bare flesh, including faces. At least one of those critically injured suffered shock burns and heart problems as a result of the batons' use. According to medical staff at a township hospital, more than 50 people were injured in the stampede.

The South African-manufactured shock baton is powered by a battery in its handle and a three to eight-second burst is capable of knocking an adult man to the ground. Electronic stun guns were banned in Britain in 1988. According to regulations in South Africa, the peak voltage recommended is 10,000 volts, but manufacturers admit that their shock batons emit impulses of up to 50,000 volts.

Amnesty said the Government was wrong not to classify the devices as weapons and called for regulation in the export of electric shock devices.

"Many of these weapons are dangerous and in some cases deadly," the group said. "Various South African companies have claimed to export these weapons to countries such as China and Egypt, which are notorious for systematic and widespread torture."

□ **Durban:** The trial of Magnus Malan, the apartheid era Defence Minister, and 16 others resumed here yesterday with the accused continuing to challenge claims of covert paramilitary activities. All the accused deny charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder. (AP)

Fugitive US financier goes on trial in Cuba

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

ON THE run for 25 years, one of America's most notorious fugitives went on trial yesterday — in Cuba. After one apparent scam too many, Robert Vesco was arrested last year in Havana and faces 20 years in jail for "illicit economic activity".

The son of a Detroit car mechanic, the financier, 60, is wanted in the US for allegedly stealing more than \$200 million (£132 million) from investors. He fled in 1971, buying protection wherever he went.

Ten years later, after running out of money and friends, he vanished again. When he reappeared in 1985, he was in Cuba, which granted him

refuge on medical grounds. Mr Vesco is alleged to have engaged in several subsequent criminal escapades, amassing further US charges, including drug running and smuggling in breach of the US trade embargo against Cuba.

Last year he was arrested by Cuban authorities, with his business partner Donald Nixon, nephew of the former US President, and accused of spying for "special foreign services". He is now formally charged with acts "prejudicial to the economic plans of the country" for his role in a project to develop a drug for cancer and arthritis behind the back of his Cuban hosts.

Maid given big Manila welcome

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

SARAH BALABANGAN, a teenage Filipino maid spared from a death sentence in the United Arab Emirates, returned home as a celebrity yesterday.

Miss Balabangan, 17, who had been lionised by the Philippine press as a symbol of the ordeal suffered by more than four million Philippines workers abroad, was met at Manila airport by a senior Foreign Ministry official, who shepherded her into a packed press conference.

The girl had spent two years in jail in the UAE and received 100 lashes for killing her elderly Arab employer after he had allegedly tried to



Balabangan at a press conference yesterday

rape her. An Islamic court condemned her to death last September. She admitted that she had repeatedly stabbed her employer after he had raped her. However, Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahayan, the President of the UAE, later commuted the sentence.

WORLD SUMMARY

Crash jet baggage blamed

New York: Thirteen more bodies were found yesterday in a 50ft length of fuselage off Long Island as investigators continued to seek the cause of the crash of TWA Flight 800 (James Bone writes).

With 184 of the 230 victims' bodies now recovered, investigators said that the plane's forward cargo hold, where a bomb is thought to have exploded, contained passenger bags rather than commercial freight. That suggests that a bomb could have been carried by an unwitting passenger, a suicide bomber, or a baggage handler. Louis Freeh, the FBI director, said there was still no "credible" evidence of a crime to justify his agency taking over the investigation.

US defence pact with Mongolia

Washington: Mongolia has signed a defence co-operation agreement with America as part of its bid to expand ties with the West and Japan (Ian Brodie writes). Under the agreement, the two sides will have exchanges of military officers, with Mongolians being trained at US military academies. The US will donate computers for Mongolian military schools and will provide emergency aid during natural disasters in Mongolia.

Tamil Tigers to be banned

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Government will ban the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam this week, a Defence Ministry source said (Vijitha Yapa writes). "Despite breaching the ceasefire of 1995, the Government... left the doors open hoping they would come for talks," the source said. The Tigers' struggle to create a separate state for the island's minority Tamils has cost more than 50,000 lives.

Tudjman faces pressure in US

President Tudjman of Croatia is expected to come under fierce pressure, when he meets President Clinton in Washington today, to do more to influence hardline Croats in Bosnia who are undermining the Dayton peace process (Eve Ann Prentice writes). Mr Tudjman will also be pressed to use his influence to end a Croat boycott of the newly elected council in Mostar.

Workings of Israel's secret service exposed

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE operational structure of Mossad, Israel's secret intelligence service, which has always prided itself on weaving a cloak of impenetrable secrecy around its covert operations, has been disclosed by a British specialist journal.

The details of Mossad's "family tree" appear in *Jane's Sentinel* journal, which has published a special edition on the eastern Mediterranean. The Israeli defence establishment has already reacted with concern over revelations in the same publication about the Israeli Air Force, including the location of all its air bases.

The detailed focus on the air force and intelligence services is due to be published in *Sentinel* next week. Apart from studying the internal workings of Mossad, which is estimated to employ about 1,200 people, the journal looks at the rest of the Israeli intelligence community, including Shin Bet, the counter-espionage agency and internal security service.

Mossad, the Central Institute for Intelligence and Special Missions, is the equivalent of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, or MI6. Israeli newspapers and broadcasting services are prohibited from writing about Mossad.

According to the journal, Mossad's largest operational branch is the Collections Department, responsible for intelligence-gathering operations abroad. The Collections Department is split into sections and includes separate "desks" covering different regions. Branch A is said to cover Spain, Egypt, Cyprus

and Algeria. Branch C is reported to cover the Mossad stations in London, Paris and Marseille.

The journal also says that Mossad has a clandestine operations command, known within the Israeli secret service as Metsada, which runs "small units of combatants who carry out actions abroad against those considered to be a threat to Israeli security". The journal says: "These missions have included assassinations and sabotage."

The Metsada unit is said to be answerable directly to the head of Mossad, who was recently named by the Israeli Government as Major-General Danny Yatom, 51. General Yatom, said to be nicknamed "The Prussian", replaced Shabtai Shavit who resigned

earlier this year after nearly seven years as Mossad's head. Other Mossad branches are listed as the Political Action and Liaison Department

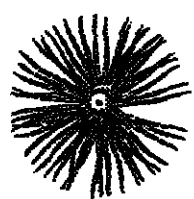
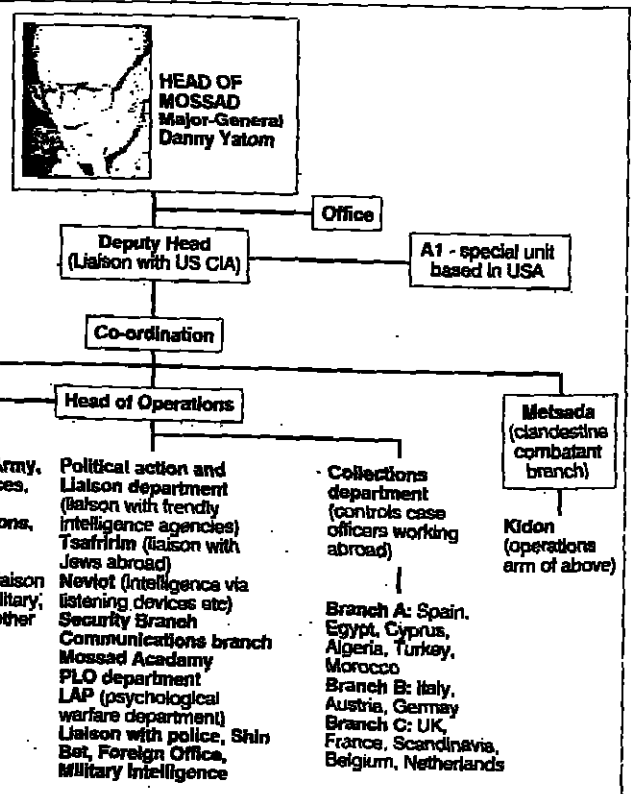
which deals with friendly foreign intelligence services, including the American CIA and Britain's MI6, and a special section called LAP (Lohamah Psychlogit) which covers psychological warfare.

The journal says that one of the most important of the support departments is the Research Department, which has 15 separate desks, including ones for the United States, Canada, Western Europe, the former Soviet Union, Libya, Syria and Iran. It says there is also a nuclear desk which specialises solely in nuclear developments around the world. Israel is known to be keeping a close watch on Iran's nuclear ambitions; Iran is said to be ten to 15 years away from a nuclear bomb.

Sentinel says Mossad's Research Department produces short daily reports and longer weekly summaries on all areas of interest.

Shin Bet, the internal service, is reported to have three operational departments and five support departments. The operational sections are listed as the Arab Affairs Department, which monitors suspected Arab subversives; the Non-Arab Affairs Department, which is involved in "the penetration of foreign intelligence services and diplomatic missions" in Israel; and the Protective Security Department, responsible for protecting national representatives and assets.

denied involvement. (AP)



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Italian court frees Priebke over SS Rome massacre

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AN ITALIAN military court yesterday convicted Erich Priebke, a former SS captain, of taking part in the massacre of 335 civilians in Nazi-occupied Rome, but ordered his immediate release because of extenuating circumstances.

Priebke, 83, was accused of mass murder aggravated by premeditation and cruelty in the killings on March 24, 1944. The prosecution had sought life imprisonment. Among those shot at the Ardeatine Caves on the outskirts of Rome were 75 Jews and a 14-year-old boy.

In a two-to-one ruling, the three-judge panel recognised Priebke's responsibility in the massacre but accepted the defence argument that, because he was acting under orders, he could not have disobeyed without risking being executed.

His present age, good behaviour in prison and "minimal role" in the crime were also taken into account, judicial sources said. Under Italian law, the crime was covered by a statute of limitation, meaning that he had to be released. Priebke, dressed in a



Priebke: acting under orders, said defence

new suit and pink shirt, showed no emotion as the verdict was read to a hushed courtroom by Judge Agostino Quistelli.

"This is a victory for Italian justice that leaves me moved," said Velio Di Rezzo, the defence lawyer. "What counts is the truth, and the truth is that Priebke was not responsible." He said that Priebke had reacted to the verdict with "a great feeling of gratitude towards Italian justice". The decision provoked an uproar

among relatives of the victims and concentration camp survivors gathered in a room adjoining the courtroom, who chanted "Fascists, Fascists", and "Shame, shame".

Priebke now faces an appeal by the victims' lawyers, and in Germany a magistrate for the Dortmund prosecutor's office said that Bonn would seek his extradition to try him for the massacre again.

Earlier, victims' relatives had shouted "Assassin, executioner, you must die", when the court retired to consider its verdict.

Tullia Zevi, the head of the Italian Jewish community, had urged the court to convict Priebke but said he should be placed under house arrest "as a humanitarian gesture" that would bolster Italy's image abroad.

During the three-month trial, the defence argued that the massacre was a legitimate reprisal for the killing a day earlier of 33 German soldiers in Rome's Via Rasella by Italian Resistance fighters, and that Priebke had acted under orders he could not disobey. The killing of ten Italians for every German was ordered by SS Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert Kappler, but five additional people were shot in the caves.

"You have to put yourself in the Nazi frame of mind in which that reprisal was legitimate," Signor Di Rezzo had argued.

The prosecution contended that Priebke could have disobeyed orders as some others had, without repercussion. "This was a vendetta, a blood feud typical of the Nazi regime with its mythology of blood, race and nation," said Judge Antonino Inteliano in his closing speech. "There was no military code in this action: everything was done in a hurry, in secret, and had to be hidden."

Priebke admitted shooting two people and marking off the names of others as they were led to be killed. The Nazis later blew up the caves to try to hide the deed.

Much of the prosecution case rested on evidence by SS Major Karl Hass, who testified that, when Priebke discovered that five extra people were on the death list he, with the complicity of Kappler, killed them, to leave no civilian witness to the carnage.

Priebke was arrested in Argentina in May last year and extradited to Italy in November after an American television interview in which he admitted his role in the massacre. He had lived for decades in an Andean resort town, running a delicatessen.



Marines face pro-Megawati demonstrators who gathered near the presidential palace in Jakarta yesterday

'Political toothache' halts case in Jakarta

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

A JUDGE'S apparent toothache saved the Indonesian Government yesterday from having to defend itself in court against allegations that it conspired to remove the country's main opposition leader as head of her party.

Riot police and troops scattered hundreds of supporters of Megawati Sukarnoputri outside the Central Jakarta District Court, where she was taking the extraordinary step of suing a government that controls almost all aspects of political life and holds sway over some aspects of the judiciary.

Three judges were to have heard the case: one of them did not turn up, however, claiming to be in pain with his tooth. Opposition leaders called it a political toothache. A few days earlier, the judge had been well enough to hear a triple murder case. The case was adjourned until August 22.

Miss Megawati was voted out of the leadership of her Indonesian Democratic Party, which she has led since 1993, after a pro-government faction opposed her. Few people doubt there was official involvement in the outcome. Her party is one of only three that are officially recognised.

The interference has backfired: Miss Megawati is now the undisputed leader of the campaign for democracy, having been seen to force the Government into securing her removal as an official party leader. She remains a member of parliament and said yesterday: "I will carry on doing what is right."

Germans tried to silence me, says Holocaust author

FROM MICHAEL KALLENBACH IN BONN

THE American historian Daniel Goldhagen, whose book on the Holocaust has angered Germans, yesterday replied to his critics, saying they wanted to silence him because he had broken a long-standing taboo.

Dr Goldhagen, whose book *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*, appears in German next week, said his arguments had been deliberately distorted in an attempt to dissuade the German public from reading it.

The book has caused an uproar in Germany, where critics have claimed that during the Hitler era the country was neither more nor less anti-Semitic than most other European countries. Dr Goldhagen maintains that ordinary Germans were not only anti-Semitic but participated willingly in killing Jews.

Given six pages by *Die Zeit*, the influential weekly, to put his case, Dr Goldhagen wrote yesterday: "This chorus of critics... treats my book as a pernicious tract that belongs on an index of banned books."

They react with a fury that recalls people who want to shut someone up because he dares to touch on a long-standing taboo."

Among the 16 critics he named are Rudolf Augstein, publisher of *Der Spiegel*, Frank Schirrmacher, publisher of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Hans Mommsen, a leading German historian, and Jörg von Uthmann, a former German diplomat in Israel, who is now a writer.

Die Zeit commented: "The vehemence of the reaction matches the stridency of the provocation."

Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, also recently became embroiled in the controversy. He said guilt was neither collective nor inherited. However, he said he would wait until the German edition was published before commenting further.

Dr Goldhagen, whose father was a Holocaust survivor, said that he would take part in several public debates with leading German historians next month.

Woman strikes fear in Indonesia's rulers

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JAKARTA

SMALL, plump, softly spoken and diffident — Megawati Sukarnoputri seems an unlikely challenger to Indonesia's strictly ordered political system. But she has rattled the Government as nobody else, with an intensifying campaign to replace President Suharto, which could mean more violence and an end to 30 years of stability and security.

Miss Megawati, 49, married three times and mother of two sons and a daughter, remembers living in the presidential palace as a child. What she does not remember, she said yesterday in an interview with *The Times*, is the massive bloodshed before her father, President Sukarno, was ousted. "When my father was thrown out of the presidency, many died. I was only a young girl and I did not know about this until later."

She lives with her husband, Taufiq Kiemas, a member of



Megawati: backed by the educated young

the House of Representatives, in a large white house in the southern suburbs of Jakarta. Since the rioting outside the headquarters of her Indonesian Democratic Party last weekend, she has not left

home. "My people will not let me go out. They say it is not safe for me. The situation is not stable."

As the daughter of the country's charismatic founding President, she is a natural symbol for change. She appeals mostly to the educated young who are the driving force for reform of a system that ensures perpetual rule for those in power. "We want equal rights with the rest of the free nations of the world," she said. "The new generation want the right to speak and write freely. They want to be able to express their hopes and opinions openly."

Indonesia was not democratic, she said: there was high-level corruption. There were labour problems, land problems, a worsening rich-poor divide, all of which had to be tackled democratically. She said change had usually come about in Indonesia violently — the old kingdoms always ended in bloodshed — but she hoped to lead a peaceful

transition. Change without chaos was possible: the transition had begun and could not be stopped. Her campaign would continue.

She said the constitution provided a "good mechanism" for electing a President, but had not been used. In 50 years of independence there had been only two Presidents — her late father and President Suharto — and the people were demanding the right to a democratically elected leader.

She acknowledged that under President Suharto the country had prospered economically and there had been peace and stability. But it was time to move on. There was a danger of violence if President Suharto died, because there was no experience in democratically choosing a new President. She said: "The older generation refuse to see what is going on."

She became the acknowledged leader of the pro-democracy movement in June after a government-backed faction

in her party deposed her and installed a new chairman — a move that confirmed intense official fear of her influence, which in turn projected her as a force to be reckoned with. She is probably the only person seriously able to challenge President Suharto, 75, who is likely to run for a seventh term in 1998 if his health holds out. He would be certain to win under the present system.

A crowd of about 10,000 rallied outside Miss Megawati's party headquarters last weekend. The gathering turned into a riot after helmeted police broke into the office and sealed it. Would-be rioters have been told they will be shot on sight.

Miss Megawati, elected party leader in 1993, has not been an especially impressive political performer. But she is the greatest force for change in more than a generation, and the Government's crackdown is proof of the threat she poses to the old order.

Wily Yeltsin cuts Lebed down to size

MORE than a month after General Aleksandr Lebed swept into the Kremlin promising to cure Russia's ills and lead it into the next century, the fortunes of the gruff soldier have begun to dim.

In the space of only six weeks, the former paratrooper and self-styled heir-in-waiting to the Kremlin leadership has discovered that his battlefield skills are of little use in the cut-throat world of Moscow politics. Undermined by President Yeltsin and outmanoeuvred by his rivals, the once-confident, and at times boastful, political hopeful has grown strangely silent.

Shortly after his appointment as secretary of the presidential security council, General Lebed served notice that he planned not only to tackle relevant issues, such as

Six weeks after the Afghan war veteran swept into the Kremlin with the swagger of a presidential heir-in-waiting, he has been outmanoeuvred by his patron, Richard Beeston writes in Moscow

military reform and the conflict in Chechnya, but also problems relating to religion, culture, economy and crime. But since installing himself in the Kremlin, he has so far failed to make an impact on any aspect of policy.

The most glaring example of his shortcomings has been felt in Chechnya, where he had promised to implement a long-awaited peace plan to demilitarise the war-torn republic. Instead, a pre-election ceasefire has been shattered by a bloody new round of

fighting, and plans for a Lebed peace mission to the region have now been postponed indefinitely.

"Lebed has been completely discredited over Chechnya," said Andrei Piontovskiy, the head of the Centre for Strategic Studies in Moscow. "It is clear now that he only criticised the war as a means to pursue his rivalry with [former Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev]. Now that Grachev has been removed and the atrocities continue, Lebed sounds like all the

others in government." Another area where the Afghan War veteran was expected to use his military expertise was in the field of army reform, in particular, efforts to convert the demoralised and ill-disciplined conscript force of two million into a smaller and more professional organisation by the turn of the century.

Although General Lebed succeeded in having his nominee, General Igor Rodionov, appointed as Defence Minister, the victory was undermined by a classic piece of Yeltsin power-balancing. Last week the Russian leader ordered the creation of a defence council headed by Yuri Baturin, the Kremlin's former security chief, to tackle the reform issue. Instead of a leading role in the council's

affairs, General Lebed now finds himself as only one voice on an 18-member body.

As for the economy, his boasts that he planned to take a direct hand in administering the country's economic policies have been neutralised by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and Anatoli Chubais, the new Kremlin Chief of Staff.

The consensus among Russian analysts and foreign diplomats in Moscow is that General Lebed has been manipulated by President Yeltsin. After the first round of voting in the presidential elections on June 16, the Russian leader courted the general for his 11 million voters, but since winning re-election in the second round on July 3 the Kremlin chief has neutralised General Lebed as a political force.

New twist put on the Bermuda Triangle

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE mystery of the Bermuda Triangle, where scores of ships and planes are said to have disappeared, may have been solved by a retired Australian academic.

Richard Sylvester, a former associate professor in the department of civil engineering at the University of Western Australia, claims vortices, or whirlpools, are the reason for so many vessels and aircraft vanishing without trace in the western Atlantic between Bermuda and Florida. Now he has written a book on his theory, which he says came to him two years ago in a "brainwave" after watching a television programme about the zone.

In *The Bermuda Triangle — Mystery No More*, Mr Sylvester, who studied sea and wave action as a coastal engineer, says that a vortex in the air could create draughts strong enough to pull a plane down to the sea, where the wind generates a current in the water, creating another vortex which in turn sucks the plane to the seabed.

This might also account for the absence of any kind of evidence on the seabed. When the vortex moves through the sea it acts like a vacuum cleaner, sucking up huge amounts of sand, rock and silt, which spin around in suspension. When the whirlpool moves on, the silt settles on the floor of the ocean, where it can bury any debris up to 10ft deep, making it virtually undetectable.

Macho Latin bulls see off Europe's wimps

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

HARD on the heels of "mad cow" disease, another bovine affliction has sent a shiver of panic through aficionados of the bullring: weedy bull syndrome.

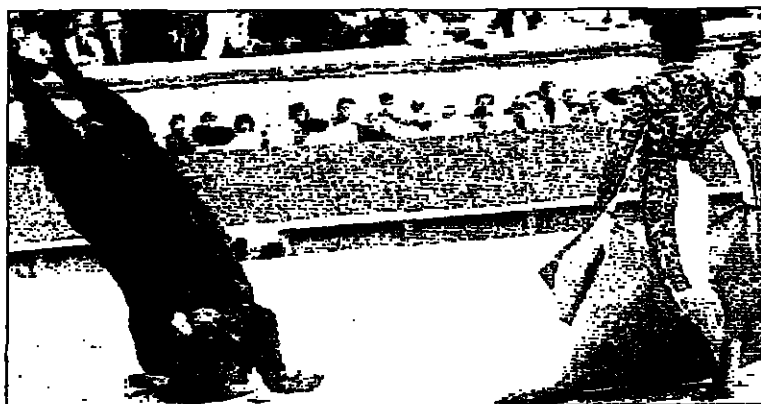
Many European bulls bred for the ring have become enfeebled, making them poor foes for even the meekest matador. Their frailty is due to a combination of wet weather, inbreeding and over-feeding, according to a report published in France yesterday.

From Arles in southern France to Seville in Spain, bulls are showing a tendency to collapse under their own weight before the first *olé* has sounded. Bullfight organisers say the weakness appears to be linked to genetic problems and obesity. Bullfight fans have come to expect

ever larger bulls, with many weighing more than half a tonne. In the weeks before a fight, breeders tended to fatten up their animals, but many bulls lack the strength to carry the sudden extra poundage and often keel over without much of a fight.

"They are artificially fed with fattening food, when they usually eat only wild grass," Hubert Yonnet, a bull-breeder from the Carmargue, told the French magazine *Événement du Jeudi*. Some breeders also send bulls to the ring before they have reached full five-year maturity. Inbreeding is also a problem; at least 70 per cent of Spanish fighting bulls are descended from the champion Andalusian bull, Domecq.

This year's crop of bulls is particularly dodder, with the wet, cold weather leaving many stiff in the joints, bronchial and oddly pacific. The magazine said enthusiasts are increasingly turning to South America, where the bulls are leaner and meaner. Often raised on large farms where they must travel great distances for food and water, the South



A frail bull spins over, bringing a clownish touch to the Nîmes arena

American bulls apparently grow smaller horns but bigger muscles. Once bulls from across the Atlantic were sneered at as lesser creatures, but now French and Spanish bullfighters are having to import South American breeding bulls in order, as one commentator put it, "to put the bravery back in our bulls".

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March of the tartan-skirted army

Authoritative and assertive, Scottish women seem to be taking over everywhere. Giles Coren finds out why

IT BEGINS with Lorraine Kelly bounding onto GMTV at 6am and ends with Kirsty Wark signing off on *Newsnight* at 11.15pm. Unless, of course, it is one of those days when Lesley Riddoch takes *The Mid-night Hour* into the small hours. In between, every day, on television and radio, in the pages of the national press and in the gossip columns, the ubiquity of Scottish women testifies to their recent, and total, conquest of the world.

There is Sheena MacDonald, presenter of *House to House*. Tracey MacLeod, late of *The Late Show*. Kirsty Young on *The Holiday Show* and Muriel Gray, whose presentation of *The Tube* launched the first series back in the early Eighties.

There are frothier warriors too, such as Carol Smiley, the model who has graduated from glamorous *Wheel of Fortune* hostess to become a presenter on *Hearts of Gold*, and models Honor Fraser and Stella Tennant, more Belgravia than *Braveheart*, but members of the same tartan army.

Genista McIntosh, the newly appointed and first female chief executive of the Royal Opera House, Rona Cameron of *Gaytime TV*... the list seems endless.

Kirsty Young, the youngest of the serious wing of the Scot Pack at 27, is only beginning to appreciate the significance of the revolution: "It hadn't really occurred to me that we were taking over the world," she says modestly. "But then it isn't so apparent when you are on the inside. It may be down to an artificial redressing of the balance, in that it has become easier to get on in television both as a woman and as someone with a regional accent, and we nicely fulfil both clauses. By being far enough away to be almost foreign, we may also have a sort of exotic quality — we are not northerners as such, or Midlandsers."

There is clearly some truth in this. "Change doesn't come about organically, but because it suddenly becomes obvious that the situation is absurd," says Lesley Riddoch, who is also associate editor of *The Scotsman* and a



The Scot pack, anti-clockwise from left, top model Stella Tennant, *Newsnight*'s Kirsty Wark, Kirsty Young, Muriel Gray and GMTV's Lorraine Kelly

regular speaker on Channel 4's *People's Parliament*. "To employ a Scotswoman is to kill two birds with one stone: if you'll pardon the pun. And the bosses can say to themselves, 'Haven't we done well?'"

"I always thought the number of Irish women on television was down to their accents being classless and unpardonable — perhaps, to English ears, the same goes for the Scots accent. It is also

supposed to be earnest, and believable, as if we have thought things through."

As to why it is the women, rather than the men, who are ubiquitous, there are different theories. "In terms of broadcasting, Scotsmen are very taciturn," says Ms Riddoch. "It is said that women develop communication skills earlier than men, and perhaps that is even more the case in a macho environment like Scotland. So

many of our decision-makers are men, and I sometimes think that women are connecting up the thoughts of the men, and presenting them. In a macho society, where men don't like speaking, women are pushed into it."

Kirsty Young has another idea. "It might be that we are slightly better looking! Scottish men are everywhere in politics, and as women we avoid that association with the lumpy, ill-fitting suits of

Westminster. We are also better at being bossy, and tend to get very stern when we lose our tempers, which producers are very keen on. It is the practice we get keeping our men in line!"

"It is also more unusual — and therefore more interesting — to see a woman in a dark suit giving someone a hard time, than a man. There is still a sort of novelty value attached."

Lorraine Kelly sees social advan-

tages in being Scottish: "It can be difficult to establish a rapport with a Hollywood star who is doing 110 other interviews. But as soon as they see I am Scottish they always turn out to have an Auntie Fanny in Skye, or be interested in golf or something. Kirk Douglas kept asking me to say things because he liked the accent, and Bette Midler grumbled me about where to visit when she was in Scotland. It helps you to stand out."

Or rather, at GMTV, to fit in. "There is definitely a Scottish mafia here," says Ms Kelly. "Maybe it's because we are all a bit sassy, a bit sparky, but also warm. It's difficult to explain..."

They are also tough, and involved in the gritty end, by and large, of the business. That is because there is no tradition of light entertainment in Scotland," says Kirsty Young. "What Scottish television makes for itself is news and current affairs programmes, so that whatever we do, ultimately that will always be where our grounding lies."

The result is a certain sternness. "Scottish women on television tend not to be coquettish or flirty. It could be genetic, it could come from being taught by blue-stockings schoolmistresses of the Miss Jean Brodie type. It could be something in the water. Or the haggis."

Kirsty Wark, who is held up by the younger generation as one of the pioneers, has also seen a mafia emerging. "*Newsnight* is overrun with Scots. I can see at least four from here. Two women, two men. Maybe it's because we are brought up to be tough and assertive, and have to wear all that woad."

"The smallness of BBC Scotland makes the training very rigorous, and the lack of money means a lot of airline to fill with unprepared talk. After a few years of that you form some pretty strong opinions."

They are certainly more politicised than their southern counterparts, and most have chosen to remain in Scotland despite the allure of London. "People like Ruth Wishart, Sheena MacDonald, Muriel and myself are fiercely committed to a separate parliament for Scotland," says Lesley Riddoch. "None admit to being part of a defined coterie. 'We are so mobile,' says Ms Riddoch, 'that we don't even see our partners that much, let alone each other,' but they do bump into each other occasionally on the Shuttle."

"Scotland is a tiny little pool of people," says Kirsty Young. "And the media circle is not huge. I know Kirsty and Muriel, and I have met Lesley a few times. But we don't sit around together on Friday nights clinking champagne glasses saying, 'Congratulations lassies we've got it all sewn up.'"

Nor, though, do they fear for the future — despite the notorious whim of media controllers whose image of the ideal employee waits with fashion. "I think we are too entrenched now," says Lorraine Kelly. "Can you imagine someone trying to get rid of us? What man would want to try to do that?"

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Jason Cowley on a campaigner who threatens to return his MBE

The history of the Gulf Support Group is the history of an obsession. Established in a spirit of defiance after some 3,000 British citizens were taken hostage following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait six years ago today, the group is now mired in debt and bitterness.

It survives only through the stubborn determination of its founder, the Coventry businessman Stephen Brookes. But even he is losing faith: he threatens to return his MBE — awarded for humanitarian work on behalf of the hostages — in protest at what he perceives to be a lack of government interest in their plight. Once a source of pride, his medal now serves as a reminder of what has gone wrong.

It all began for Mr Brookes and his wife Josie when they received a phone call from their closest friend, Wen Li. Her husband Eric Watson, best man at their wedding, had been taken hostage after his plane was intercepted on a refuelling stop in Kuwait.

"The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had been headline news for several days, but now it hit us between the eyes," wrote Josie Brookes in her book about the crisis, *The Human Shield*. "We were so angry, so bitter, so frustrated at the lack of news, we were galvanised into action."

What they were then not to know was just how much their involvement with the hostages was to cost them, not just in financial terms but personally. As Mr Brookes, 49, became increasingly caught up in his quest to free the hostages and then later to gain compensation for them, so the distinction between his private and public self dissolved.

"The whole thing has been a disaster for us," he says. "We have lived with nothing but this crisis for the past six years. Before this started, we were just a middle-of-the-road professional couple. [Mr Brookes worked in sales and marketing for an engineering company]. But now we are virtually second-degree hostages of Iraq."

After struggling to maintain a normal relationship, Stephen and Josie finally divorced last year. "We allowed the pressure of the campaign to destroy our marriage. I was working from home and it meant that we had no respite from everything that was

Why I am still a hostage to the Gulf War



Stephen and Josie Brookes: a high price to pay

going on. We had no one else to turn to." Although they are now living together again, they have no plans to remedy. Money remains an endless difficulty: only last week their telephone was disconnected because they were unable to pay the bill. Mr Brookes says: "We have put something like £60,000 of our own money into the group: we have been to hell and back — and still there is no sign of a resolution."

The former hostage James Ure has met Mr Brookes on several occasions over the past six years. "Stephen is consumed by a sense of wrong," he says. "But I sometimes wonder if people realise how much he himself has suffered. The campaign has gone beyond the Gulf War now, beyond everything."

It was not always like this. When the Gulf Support Group was set up it had the backing of MPs, big business and many volunteers, and the Government helped to fund a London office. The Gulf Support Trust was also created to handle donations and to help

pay for the enormous expense of running a support group. But just as many of the hostages have suffered in silence, so Mr Brookes has watched interest in his campaign dissipate. The London office was closed early in 1991, donations ceased around the same time and the Government withdrew after making £147,000 available to establish trauma centres for the hostages at two London hospitals.

"Once the hostages got off the plane most people assumed that the group had served its purpose," Mr Brookes says. "Of course, the real work was only just beginning. After the initial euphoria, the hostages had to face the reality of unemployment, post-traumatic stress and life on social security."

"When the Iraqis invaded, these people lost their homes and their businesses; women were raped. It's not hard to see why they have struggled to cope, especially when they haven't had the necessary counselling." He says that in the past five years, 17 of the

hostages have died from "stress-related illnesses", there have been several suicides and many have succumbed to alcoholism as they wrestle with debt and loneliness.

Not a month passes but he receives a letter from one of the hostages "desperate for help and advice". Many seem compelled endlessly to recount the story of their incarceration.

He also receives letters from MPs orchestrating campaigns on behalf of constituents. In a letter to the Foreign Secretary, Iain Sproat, the Heritage Minister, described how one of his constituents had had his life ruined by his experience as a hostage: "The farmers, struck disastrously by the consequences of BSE, are to be compensated. Yet the Foreign Office refuses to help these British nationals whose lives have been ruined through no fault of their own. My constituent has been driven to despair over this."

James Ure was working as a chef at Baghdad Airport when he was taken hostage. Since returning to Britain he has suffered from depression and ill health. Now 60, he is scratching a living from odd jobs after being evicted from his house earlier this year. "Like many of the hostages, I came back to no job and no prospects. My marriage has broken up and if it wasn't for Stephen's work, I don't think I would have made it."

Mr Brookes says that interest in frozen Iraqi assets in Britain may hold the key to the compensation problem. "My research suggests that Iraq has assets of £748 million tied up in British banks. The interest alone could be used to help the hostages." The response of the Foreign Office is categorical: "Security Council resolutions do not allow the interest on Iraqi funds held in UK banks to be taken to meet claims of UK nationals."

That is no help to Mr Brookes, who has the forlorn look of one who feels that a great injustice has been committed. Although he insists that his life will eventually return to normal, there is, in truth, nothing but doubt in his expressions of confidence.

His obsession must surely now seem like a kind of imprisonment. There is no possibility of release. He has come too far.



Professor Jack Scarisbrick: "If you deny that life begins with the fusion of sperm with ovum, when does it begin?"

Fighting for the unborn child

The founder of Life, Professor Jack Scarisbrick, is against IVF treatment — but he is appalled by the destruction of embryos

The Life movement is neither fashionable nor popular. Its founder, Professor Jack Scarisbrick, is a big man of 67 with a rufous face, a loudly striped shirt and an equine about finding himself ignored. He knocked on the door of 10 Downing Street on Wednesday, fruitlessly: there was to be no reprieve for the 3,000 frozen embryos now being disposed of at fertility clinics.

The embryos are microscopic clusters of cells, the size of a typewritten full stop. Their humanity is debatable, and the whole issue is clouded by sentiment and misapprehension, but this week the reasoning public had to question why, under an arbitrary five-year rule, the embryos, once so yearned for by infertile couples, are now being discarded.

Another reminder of how far science has advanced beyond our ability to cope with the resulting human and social chaos. John Joseph Scarisbrick, born in suburban London, was a fifth child; with three older sisters and a brother who had Down's syndrome. "So I think I was lucky not to be conceived post-1967. My mother, who was 43 with a severely disabled husband [he died when Jack was five] plus a Down's child and three other children, would have been pressurised not to proceed with the pregnancy."

Victorian villa with a magnificent walled garden "where you might be miles from the turn of modern life". Modern life encroached in 1970. The professor, a new father, was incensed by David Steel's "intellectually contemptible" Abortion Bill arguments that the child in the womb was morally inferior and disposable because "dependent". "Dependence implies duties on the person dependent on. If dependence denotes disposability, then my daughter was disposable too."

Life was to have no religious affiliation, he insisted, but yes, he is a Roman Catholic. "But my wife gets very angry when people say 'you're doing this because your husband's a Catholic'."

They took the absolutist stance that the destruction of the child in the womb is always wrong. But they also realised "it wasn't enough to say 'thou shalt not'. Not every pregnancy is wanted, even in a happy marriage. We needed to provide a helpline like the Samaritans, and a pregnancy care service". They have 200 branches run by volunteers, and get 100,000 calls a year.

The professor admires the American right-to-life movement for making it a central political issue "which we have not succeeded in doing". What about the US pro-life movement's propensity for aggressive, murderous, anti-life activity?

"Two or three weirdo extremists out of tens of thousands," he says. "We have the occasional oddball join us but they don't stay because Life is hard work. Our counsellors undergo rigorous training and selection. And they have to test urine samples. That sorts them out."

There is no love lost between the professor and the Human Embryology and Fertilisation Authority. Will the two sides ever agree on the question of when life begins? The HEFA decided on 14 days (when the primitive streak, which becomes the spinal cord, appears). "If you deny that life begins with the fusion of sperm with ovum, when does it begin? Professor Robert Edwards has written categorically that life begins at fertilisation. The former Archbishop John Habgood espoused an absurd agnosticism: 'It has no beginning, it is a process.' Wonderful Anglican waffle."

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



The analogy I use is from cricket," says the professor, a cricket fanatic. "When does a cricket match begin? When the umpire says 'play'. Before that, you have two teams. If you were to say to the bowler at the end of the third over, 'sorry, we're not sure this match has begun at all yet, the bowler would be very surprised.' The word foetus is a euphemism for unborn child. A gynaecologist examining a pregnant woman does not say 'and how is your foetus today?' Professor Scarisbrick believes that the entire sexual

Atlanta needs a winning streak

ONLY two days of the Olympic Games to go, and not yet a single streaker. There have been Michael Johnson's golden running shoes, Armenian athletes chasing a local prostitute down the street — the speed she went, we could have used her in the British team — and the temporary hijack of the Princess Royal's car by

Quentin Letts is hoping for a flash of inspiration at the Olympic Games

our gold medalists Redgrave and Pinsent. But not a single, measly streak. In Britain it has been a summer sans culottes. There was the plump-bottomed streaker at Wimbledon, a

featherless birdie at the Open, and the naked man who this week interrupted the Webster's World Darts Match-play, even as the sharp-pointed arrows were flying. Afterwards he had a biting

walk home down Blackpool's promenade with nothing to shield him from the stiff sea breeze. Then, last weekend, two men stripped off in front of the Queen during the Cartier polo at Windsor. Her Majesty was amused. In America, however, streaking is almost unknown, a sorry state of affairs that surely says something about the odd, almost perverted prudishness in this land of free expression and lurid sexual lowlife. American magazines are often absurdly sensitive about ticklish advertisements for products such as bras and deodorants, ads which are carried without a moment's thought by European titles. On the beaches of the Hamptons, the fashionable enclave on New York's Long Island, bikini tops are very much kept on, even though everyone is happy to tune in to the Robin Byrd midnight striptease show on the local cable television service.

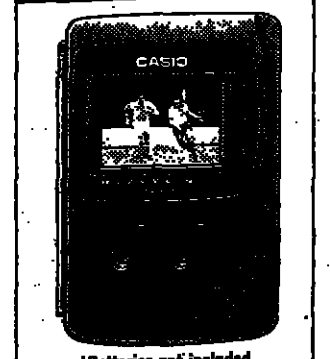
AMERICA does have the weather for streaking: Atlanta is formidably balmy. The people certainly have the *joie de vivre*, the eye for self-promotion, and many have the basic equipment. Sure, there are a lot of fannies, but there are also countless keep-fit fanatics who would look swell in their birthday suits. Joyce Brothers, a New York psychologist, believes it is simply that America has fallen out of the streaking fashion. "We did have streaking in the Seventies on the college campuses," she recalled, almost wistfully, "and someone once streaked behind David Niven at the Academy Awards." Dr Brothers interprets streaking as a way of stating one's independence, of putting other people down, and telling them that they are stuffy and uptight. "Perhaps that's why you Brits are at it all the time," she said.

A streaker would have provided a valuable service here. Those of us in the press tent would have hurried after the culprit in search of vital statistics and a few comments rather than writing about all the disorganisation and, of course, the bomb. What the Atlanta Games needs is a damned good streak. There are still two days left, so on yer marks, get set, and get 'em off.

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EDUCATION

On course for better things

David Tytler looks at teenagers who volunteer to go back to school in the summer holidays

S ometime next week a rocket is due to be launched from the heart of London, designed not by the world's leading space scientists, but as part of an ambitious scheme of summer courses for inner-city teenagers.

The Summer University, organised by Tower Hamlets council, opened its doors this week to the first of thousands of students voluntarily giving up their holidays to improve their existing skills and gain new ones. The rocket launch is part of a science course at St Paul's Way School, attended by ten students. Elsewhere in the building, teenagers are learning to play soft ball, paint on silk or improve their writing skills.

Frances Knowles, manager of community education at St Paul's Way, says that last year's pilot scheme was a resounding success, with 2,700 students on courses during the four-week period. Not all would have completed the subjects they had signed up for, but there is no doubting either the enthusiasm and commitment of the tutors or that of the students.

One of the striking aspects of the scheme is the "peer motivators" idea: teenagers with an interest in youth work are trained to act as assistants, talking directly to the students, ensuring they are in the right place at the right time, and making sure that they are having fun and feel the courses are worthwhile.

Ms Knowles says: "The 'motivators' are attached to classes and one attends every activity. They talk to students to ensure that they are getting what they want and are having fun. The idea is that they will move on into youth-work training. They will get an assessment from us, stating what they have been taught, the skills they have achieved and how well they have used them. They are very carefully selected, but if they are not any good, they will be weeded out."

The teenage assistants are paid £7.50 a session and work only when they are required. David Holloway, one of the two Summer University directors, says: "In all aspects of youth work, drug and sex education, for example, we are increasingly



Summer University students: "We aim for a programme that is fun, based around sports, music and the arts, with academic and vocational courses"

using young people to talk to other young people as the most effective way of getting the message across."

Mr Holloway has been involved in summer projects for teenagers for five years. "There have been summer programmes in the past, but they have tended to be based around youth clubs, with outings and some projects — a very small menu. We aim for a balanced programme that is fun, based around sports, music and the arts, with some residential courses, together with academic and vocational courses. The students sign up to a bit of each."

"Many are reluctant at first, but once they start they want to get on. We use art and music and the Internet as a way into the more structured learning. We want to get them actively involved and enthusiastic about their learning."

"We have fun on the Internet, but the students soon learn that to do everything they want they have to get the technical skills, to learn about maths and science."

Mr Holloway, a graduate who

dropped out of school at 13, but returned to higher education, adds that he also believes in the importance of structured education: the three Rs and whole-class teaching. He estimates that about 2,000 students will leave this year's courses with worthwhile experience. Some

For the teenagers of Tower Hamlets, the alternatives too often are to stay in bed or walk the streets

will have certificates from sporting bodies and all who have completed courses successfully will be given certificates for their National Record of Achievement.

This year's courses are based on last year's pilot scheme and a survey

of 14 to 16-year-olds in the borough. This showed that 93 per cent of those who replied wanted help with GCSE and A-level courses, 64 per cent expressed a keen interest in modern languages and around 45 per cent wanted courses in fashion and sport. To meet these preferences, the Summer University is offering study skills in humanities, science, maths and computers and courses in French, German and Spanish.

All the courses are offered free, with minimal charges for water-sports and some travel costs for the residential courses. Two weeks in Berlin, for example, for 20 language students will cost £25 each plus spending money. The project is supported by Tower Hamlets Council and various European agencies, but has been guaranteed for three years by a £185,000 grant from the National Lottery.

One of the uncertainties is how many students will turn up. On Monday, the first day of the course, the attendance was about 75 per cent, which Mr Holloway describes as

good. Some will drop out, but others will join in, so there is likely to be an overall gain.

The Tower Hamlets team have been working with Birmingham City Council, which also opened its University of the First Age this week, an idea of its chief education officer, Tim Brighouse.

In Birmingham, about 300 pupils aged 11 to 12 will take part in week-long projects in subjects including maths, science, technology, French, Spanish and Urdu. It is intended that by 2001, all secondary school pupils in Birmingham will belong to two linked institutions, their mainstream school and the University of the First Age, which will offer intensive, mixed age courses.

Both schemes are aimed at helping children and young people to get the best out of their schooling, to become actively involved in learning and, above all, to enjoy it. For the teenagers of Tower Hamlets, the alternatives, only too often, are to stay in bed or aimlessly walk the streets.

How we see, hear and feel words

Methods of teaching dyslexics to read can be used for every child

G rowing numbers of teachers are adopting a traditional method of teaching reading which is based on a multisensory system devised to help dyslexic children. Pupils taught in this way in a school in Wandsworth, south London, have reading ages of six months to a year in advance of their chronological age.

The system, devised at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, in the early 1980s, harks back to some of the approaches of the 1930s. More than 500 teachers from across Britain have studied the method at Hornsby House School, founded by Dr Beve Hornsby, the psychologist and speech therapist.

Professor Colin Terrell, an educational psychologist at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education, which established a year-long distance learning course with Hornsby House, is convinced that the traditional methods are successful in raising standards. "They reinforce young children's understanding that words are made up of individual sounds. Having grasped that fact, they are then able to decode new words when they see them," Professor Terrell says.

Dr Hornsby devised a system based on phonics, learning individual constituent sounds of words, which is designed to follow closely the patterns of speech development. Children learn the sound of each letter before linking the letters to build up words. And as it is a multisensory approach involving the aural, visual and tactile senses, pupils hear, see and feel the words.

For example, after hearing the teacher pronounce the letters CAT and then the word cat, they repeat what they hear. They then write the letters, read what they have written and finally close their eyes and trace the word in the air to memorise it. Pupils gradually move on

to more difficult combinations of letters, such as SH as in sheep, and play word games to recognise sounds. Given suffixes such as AP or OUGHT they expand their vocabulary by adding letters to form words like cap and map or fought and sought.

This approach, however, is not only about teaching reading. For as pupils write words, they learn to spell them. "Reading, writing and spelling are inter-related activities. Our aim is to equip pupils to master written English," Professor Terrell says.

Hornsby House School was established to prove that the multisensory approach works. The school has also shown that dyslexic pupils can be successfully taught alongside normal pupils using this method.

"Some 10 per cent of pupils are thought to be dyslexic," Professor Terrell says. "This way we can keep them in normal classes instead of labelling them as having special needs."

Other beneficiaries, according to Hornsby House, are eight to ten-year-olds who had failed to learn to read properly when taught by modern methods in infancy. After switching to multisensory teaching, with its traditional phonics, they catch up fast.

The distance-learning course for practising teachers has attracted trainees mainly from British schools, but groups in Malta, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Barbados and Cyprus are also showing interest. The course comprises 30 hours of practical tuition, and observation sessions.

After the initial emphasis on in-service training, Professor Terrell is developing a Master of Education course at Cheltenham and Gloucester College for teachers of special needs children. It begins this autumn and the hope is that multisensory teaching will be introduced for all students entering teacher training.

IOLA SMITH

Susan Elkin explains how boarding school pupils from overseas are provided with British 'parents'

The old all-encompassing expression "parents and guardians" takes on a whole new meaning in boarding education. If you are, say, a Japanese or Taiwanese pupil in an English boarding school, your parents are not exactly on hand to stay with during half-term and holidays, visit you at weekends or drop in at school events.

It could be pretty bleak. The reason it is not is that almost every overseas boarding student is carefully assigned to a British-based couple and their family who act as on-the-spot guardians.

Yumiko Terai, 17, is a year-ten GCSE pupil at St James and the Abbey School at Malvern in Hereford and Worcester. She is about as far from her home, near Osaka in Japan, as she could be, but her British guardians live only a few miles away at Upton.

"I'm very happy with them," says Yumiko. "I get on really well with the youngest daughter who is about my age. I often go out with her and her friends."

So how are families who want to

A long way from home, but close to the family

be guardians successfully teamed up with those who need them? If the family has friends or relations in Britain they probably make their own arrangements. But most parents who choose to send their children abroad for what they clearly regard as the best education, have no international contacts. Guardianship partnerships have therefore to be set up by the schools and/or companies, such as Gabbitts Educational Consultants.

St James and the Abbey, a girls' school with 200 pupils of whom about 5 per cent are currently from Japan, advertises locally for guardians. "Parish magazines and local newspapers are a good way of reaching the right people," says the headmistress, Elizabeth Mullenger.

"We also use staff networking. Most of our guardians live close by, so they can pop in very readily."

Once a potential guardian has emerged, someone from St James visits the home "to see if the atmosphere is relaxed enough to absorb an overseas child". Miss Mullenger works closely with Sarah Studdert Kennedy, head of guardianship at Gabbitts, who has about 120 overseas students in guardianship and seems to know each one and every guardian personally.

Elspeth Patterson — not her real name because she asked for anonymity — was selected by Gabbitts. She and her husband, who have two children of their own, have been guardians for eight years. They are in the process of seeing four mem-

bers of one Taiwanese family through English boarding education. Girls of 16 and 15 are at senior schools while their nine-year-old brother has recently started prep school. An older sister is at Sheffield University and although, now that she's of age, the Pattersons are no longer technically her guardians, she keeps in touch and is still very much part of the family.

"We take them to the airport and see them off when they go home," says Mrs Patterson. "We also sort out school uniform and bring them home for short breaks."

There is another benefit too. Ayao Misawa, 17, who is studying art, technology and Japanese for A level at St James and the Abbey, comes from Tokyo. As well as valuing the

acquisition of some quasi siblings — she's an only child — she finds academic advantage in being part of her guardians' family. "They know how to help me with my A levels because they're British and understand the system in a way my parents never could," she says.

Guardianship is also an unsung aspect of positive international networking and multi-cultural awareness: "We've loved learning so much about eastern culture and getting to know these Taiwanese children really well as they've got older. It's an extraordinarily positive experience," says Mrs Patterson.

That dedication and commitment, unswayed by financial gain, is evidently crucial. As Miss Mullenger says: "It is essential that people don't go into guardianship for money. That's not the way to attract the best people."

That is why couples such as the Pattersons receive only their expenses and a tiny allowance. The rewards apparently lie in the satisfaction of doing a worthwhile job well.

Hands off our school!

Mohammed Mehmet on why education associations don't work

O n May 9, I read in *The Times* that Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, was "minded" to transfer the Langham School, of which I am chair of the governors, to an education association (EA).

It was a devastating blow to Langham, a comprehensive school serving a multicultural area in Tottenham, north London. An EA is a government-appointed group of business and education experts with a mission to kill or cure a failing school. It has been used only once before, when it recommended closing Hackney Downs School last year.

Two months later Mrs Shephard changed her mind about Langham, commending the governors for their sense of purpose and direction, and acknowledging the many improvements since 1995.

Pupils had been failed by the school for years. It was the pressure from Ofsted, the

school inspection agency, and in February 1995 its judgment that the school was failing, which gave the impetus for a root-and-branch programme of change. The governing body — many of us new governors — welcomed the report, seeing it as the opportunity for transforming the school.

From my experience as a senior education officer, Ofsted inspections and the agency's regular monitoring are usually effective in securing improvement. They give governors the support they need to keep the pressure on, and demand urgency from a local education authority (LEA). This healthy tension is helping to raise standards in many schools in Haringey where I live, and Hackney where I work.

The governors at Langham acted even before the report was published, suspending the head and a deputy. With LEA support, we put new



Mohammed Mehmet: Government threats did not help Langham School

managers in place. A detailed, two-year action plan in March 1995 was approved by Ofsted and by the Department for Education and Employment.

By any objective measurement, Langham is now an improving school. For example, this year's national tests for 14-year-olds show significant improvement in the core subjects of English, maths and science, and 91 per cent of the year group took GCSEs this summer, compared to 80 per cent in 1995. The school's financial future is secured and our roll

is up by 7 per cent. Every teacher has been observed and received detailed feedback.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the school and its community vigorously opposed the takeover proposal.

Some would argue that, after the closure of Hackney Downs, the Government was keen to demonstrate that education associations were capable of improving schools, as well as shutting them. Therefore the easy option would be to take over a school which was already improving, though not in the public's perception. Langham school

seemed to fit this bill. From May 9 the Department for Education and Employment behaved almost as if the education association was a foregone conclusion.

For example, it advised us not to go ahead with the appointment of our new head and deputy head. The governing body ignored the advice and appointed two excellent managers. Had we listened, the school would have been without a head until at least next January.

On July 18, Mrs Shephard made the right decision and recognised the effective work

of the governing body. Her announcement on May 9 was an error and it damaged the school. It caused a number of good applicants to withdraw from key teacher vacancies.

Time and effort by governors and senior school staff was spent on maintaining morale, and writing submissions for Mrs Shephard — effort which should have been spent implementing the action plan to revitalise the school.

The real lesson of Langham is that education associations are not appropriate and will be resisted where a partnership of governors, parents, staff, LEA officers and Ofsted is clearly working.

The Government should encourage this partnership to develop and follow a tough, determined programme of change and improvement. One irony is that the initial threat of an EA can help to bring about such a partnership. But carrying out the threat once the partnership is working makes no sense.

It seems to me that government intervention is necessary only in cases where there is no local strategy and political will to tackle a "failing" school. But even here, there must always be clear educational grounds. These need to be set out in advance if EAs are to have any credibility.

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Philip Howard



What's the good of being a lord if you can't run riot?

Althorp and Blandford, Marlborough and proud Moyrihan, And Baron Brocket of the wandering cars, And Angus Charley Drogo Montagu, Baron Montagu and Viscount Mandeville, Twelfth Duke of Manchester, in durandie vile, Across the Atlantic beyond Prospero's Isle, Where would we be without our peccant Peers, Who could be players in *Lords' Labours Lost* Or *Peer for Peer*, *The Comedy of Earls*? But why when one of you gets done For fraud and drugs, or drinking like a lord, For bigamy, bastardy, and bawdry in a stew — Or massage parlour as we call it now, In meaty-mouthed days of euphemism — Or married for the twenty-seventh time, Do all our news-sheets headline you "rogue peers"? As though your rogues were exceptional, "Rogue peer" is a tautology. The point of peers is that they should be rogues, and do the things that excite the rest of us.

A peer refreshes the excesses that other mortals cannot reach. Shakespeare knew his nobles when he put Sir John Falstaff in *Mistress Quickly's* Boar's Head Massage Parlour in Eastcheap. The stately peers of England have been aristocrats for generations. The pages of *Debut's Peerage*, *Baronetage*, *Knightage*, and *Companionage* may look as disjointed as a railway timetable after privatisation, but those family histories condense a more dreadful record of sin, bigamy, bastardy, banditry and bad behaviour than a town full of respectable bourgeois. Those who can trace their family-tree back to when the family used to live in one have a history of piracy under the Normans, plunder of church property under the Tudors, a mistress of Charles II as an ancestor, and purchase of honours from James I to Lloyd George and Tory funds. It is traditional that some of Harold Wilson's life peers from the lavender honours lists ended up in jug. They were doing what a peer has to do.

Droit de seigneur may be harder to trace in fact than in *The Marriage of Figaro*, but it represents the popular myth of lordly immorality. In France, bad behaviour by the aristocracy led to their replacement by a new lot of Napoleonic aristocrats. Remember the slow-burning rage of La Bruyère's description of the peasants in France in the reign of Louis XIV? These wild animals, males and females, stretched out in the fields, black, livid and burnt by the sun. Attached to the soil, which they dig and turn over with invincible stubbornness. They have something like a voice, and when they stand up, they have a human face. Then (the sting in the tail): *et en effet, ils sont des hommes*!

In France they guillotined their aristocrats. In England, with native irony, we make use of them for entertainment. From Victorian melodrama, with bold, bad baronets twirling their moustaches, through to Ayckbourn, the peccant peer is an archetype of romance. *Pamela*, which is one of the (many) candidates for matriarch of the modern novel, runs on this stock plot of aristocrat trying to have his wicked way with an unsophisticated 15-year-old, as if such a maiden ever existed: "O preserve me, heaven, from his power, and from his wickedness!"

In Wodehouse's *Never-Never Land*, the peccant peer plays a recurrent cameo part. It is true that Clarence, the Ninth Earl of Emsworth, is pig-obsessed rather than a rogue. But consider Sir Gregory Parsloe-Parsloe of Matchingham Hall, who will perform any villainy to win the silver medal for his giant pig, Pudge of Matchingham. Roderick Spode is ennobled as Baron Sidcup, and he is leader of the fascist Black Shorts. Lord Worpleston, married to Aunt Agatha, is not always a bad egg. But Bertie judges that given the choice of a Worpleston or a hippogriff as a walking companion, the hippogriff wins every time. The Earl of Bliester, guardian of Freddie Widgeon, is still a wealthy peer, but moths have nested for years in his wallet. He won the Fat Uncles competition at the Drones Club. Sir Watkyn Bassett, Bart, trousers the fines he imposes at Boshier Street Magistrates' Court. The Duke of Dunstable descends on the country homes of his pals, inviting himself for long periods. Few coats could have less hair, and any walrus would be proud of the moustache through which he strains his snout.

Lord Moyrihan saw himself as "the typical English gentleman". In the High Court, Sir Stephen Brown described him as "a thoroughly dishonest rogue". Both right. He was that source of amusement in the comedy of manners, the rogue peer.

Clive Aslet describes the desperate plight of the beef and dairy industry after yesterday's news

So the ministry of madness strikes again

Yesterday, as Britain's beef and dairy farmers sat down to the evening news, they heard one of their worst fears realised. Until then, it seemed possible that cattle could only contract the brain disease BSE by eating feed containing the ground up remains of sheep and other cattle. This idea was supported by the dramatic fall in the incidence of BSE after the feed was banned. But the ban should, in theory, have eliminated BSE completely from British herds. In fact, cases continue to occur at a rate of almost 200 a week.

Officials tried hard to find explanations which supported the original hypothesis, though they never sounded very convincing. One heard that tests at government research stations, to be completed at the end of this year, were expected to indicate that BSE could not be transmitted vertically, from mother cow to calf. Farmers now know that this hope was unfounded. In a very small number of cases, vertical transmission does seem to be taking place.

The findings are provisional, but they could have devastating consequences. They make nonsense of the Government's policy of culling older cattle as a means of exterminating BSE. If BSE is to be stamped out, the cull will have to extend to the progeny of all diseased cattle. Already, before yesterday's announcement, the Government had accepted that its slaughter policy would kill 50 healthy animals for every one that was infected. This was an appalling and tragic waste. Now it is possible that far greater numbers of cattle will have to be sacrificed.

Some farmers have already gone to the wall over BSE. Very few if any new cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in

young people — with which there may conceivably be a link with BSE — have appeared since the spring. So it may yet be that more deaths will result from farmers committing suicide than from children eating hamburgers. On the other hand, some farmers have already taken such a battering that they will barely notice the latest burden. Alan Bartlett, the chairman of the Somerset branch of the National Farmers Union, consoles himself with the thought that only 1 per cent of calves born to BSE-infected cows will have contracted BSE from their mothers. This, he points out, is a very small number — not to be confused with 1 per cent of the national herd.

The ghastly prospect that it may be possible for BSE to be transmitted through milk is quashed by the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee's report. While the scientists do not believe that BSE is passed from cow to calf through blood, they equally assure us that milk is safe. "In commercial dairy herds where the bulk of BSE cases arise, calves do not receive their mothers' milk except for the first few days of life, when they receive the special milk produced at that time called colostrum. Colostrum is different in

nature from ordinary milk and is not sold for human consumption." These words will be cherished not just by farmers, but cheesemakers, chocolate makers and the makers of a host of processed foods. They should avert the Government's ultimate nightmare of the slaughter of the whole of the British dairy herd.

Even so, the ministry's stock has never been so low among the farmers who are part of its supposed constituency. Last week, the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, led his entire team of ministers to the Game Fair, in Lincolnshire, his object clearly being to demonstrate the ministry's presence in the countryside. Mr Hogg made a vigorous defence of country sports. Anyone who saw him — looking, as someone said, "as grey as a corpse and lolling like a rag doll" — cannot doubt the strain he has been under. Most country people think someone must pay the price of a decade of incompetence in the ministry. That someone is Mr Hogg.

The manner of yesterday's announcement was unfortunate. Parliament was not sitting, and it happened that the Chief Veterinary Officer was scheduled to attend a meeting of the European vets. Consequently the news was made by

press release. Why did Mr Hogg and others not make themselves immediately available to answer questions? The episode recalled the disastrous announcement of the original findings about a possible link between BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. Then the scientists had not troubled to warn ministers of the likely outcome of their deliberations. No contingency plans were in place.

The impression of incompetence — by officials if not by ministers — was confirmed by the manner of introducing the slaughter policy. Endless mistakes showed that the ministry, despite being dedicated to a single industry, did not understand how beef and dairy farming operate. Rationalisation has deprived the ministry of its farm advisory service, where practical experience was concentrated. It is the chaos of the slaughter policy, only partially mitigated since April, that really distresses farmers such as Mr Bartlett.

The largest measure of blame may lie not with Douglas Hogg, but even higher in the Government. The Prime Minister identified his objective in typically political terms. This is to get the European Union's worldwide ban on British exports lifted as soon as possible.

He ignores the uncomfortable reality, which is that even if the EU were to relax the ban, most other countries would maintain their own bans, which have also been imposed. There would be no one to take the meat, even if we were allowed to export it.

In Florence, the Prime Minister pledged to sacrifice an even greater number of cattle to achieve the "framework" by which the ban might be lifted. In supplication to the Euro-sceptics within his party, he even expressed the hope that the conditions for recommencing exports of British beef would be met by October. There was never any possibility of reaching that target, and he must have known it.

Before yesterday's announcement, Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, said that he believed it would be five years before the ban was lifted. Now that period could be doubled. What farmers need to see is leadership to restructure their industry. Rather than squandering billions of pounds on the slaughtering of cattle to fulfil political objectives, it would be better to set in train policies that would, in five or ten years' time, restore the prestige of Britain's beef and dairy industries, making them the best in the world.

At present, Britain's farmers are in limbo. Parliament's summer recess means that they must wait until October before they find out about the new rules for tracing the "cohorts" of BSE-infected cattle. They need to know the worst now. They need to plan. Then they must be given the confidence to rebuild their shattered businesses.

The author is Editor of Country Life.

Tampering with justice

Who did what with whose balls should not be a matter for the High Court

In the matter of Ian Botham, Imran Khan and Allan Lamb, I propose to start not at the beginning, nor at the end, but in a somewhat recalcitrant position, viz., the words used by the head lawyers in the case.

Now, now: I know in the past I have frequently said unkind words about the lawyers — but what I am about to say now is perfectly sincere, though the lawyers may say that it is still just lawyer-bashing. I truly mean it, with no sneering or jeering.

I want to know, how the head lawyers in a case such as the Botham/Lamb/Imran imbroglio, can keep a straight face as they pour out their clients' woes or joys or vice versa (and frequently both).

Let me give first one tiny example: it comes from the mouth of George Carman, QC, and you can't get a better lawyer than that. Hear this passage.

Mr Carman said: "What you said about Pakistan was that it was where you would like to send your mother-in-law for a month, all expenses paid."

Botham replied: "No, I said for two weeks."

When the laughter died down, Mr Carman went on: "That was a disgracefully offensive observation to the people and cricketers of Pakistan, wasn't it?"

And the answer, of course, no it wasn't, you breathtaking lawyer, and everyone in the court knew it. But I am not challenging Mr Carman: I wouldn't be such a fool as to try it on him. I am saying what I said at the beginning: how does a leading silk keep his face rigid when he has to stand on his head and wiggle his feet into the bargain, for nothing but a lousy half million smackers an hour, day and night, plus that lovely word — *refresher*.

But I am not jeering at Mr Carman. If parcels of boobies want to throw millions of pounds into the nearest dustbin, Mr Carman has the right to use his gigantic talents to point out where the dustbins stand. After all, this money, which is now being piled up in a dozen Everests, is not coming from my account or yours, and if you want to see the fun directly, you can go to the Law Courts — anyone can go, and it's free — and marvel that one crowded room can hold so many bloody fools, and that so many

gowned figures go home lurching because their pockets are weighed down with the spondulicks.

To start with, we are not discussing matters of state, let alone important figures. We are talking about a handful of — er — players, whose only significance is that they are or were good at knocking balls about. (Imran, I am told, is some kind of uppity figure in Pakistan, but as far as I know, his actual talent is with the said balls.)

Now anyone who comes to this story fresh would rock with laughter or anger or both. For here are three grown men behaving like spoilt children whose fathers did not use the strap frequently enough.

Take the first bit of nonsense. Some fresh would rock with laughter or anger or both. For here are three grown men behaving like spoilt children whose fathers did not use the strap frequently enough.

This pitiful nonsense has gone on and on for a fortnight, with nobody prepared to grab a handful of sense and shake it until someone points out that the shenanigans in the story would shame a drunken beggar.

Here is a pointed finger, no matter who is doing the pointing. The talk was of cricket balls being tampered on the gates of Lords? If not, why not? For you see, some say the ball was tampered with and others said it wasn't, and in any case if it was tampered with, the tampering was a rather special version, in which the shape of the ball was altered, but not its condition.

Yes, grown-up men have been doing such things. And not only do they do such things, they get their bovine faces in the newspapers — yes, this newspaper, inches high. And try this: "Ian Botham told the High Court [and why didn't the High Court pour a bucket of ordure over him, eh?] that he had rejected Imran Khan's proposal to settle their dispute with a letter to *The Times*, be-

Bernard Levin



cause he didn't regard it as an apology. And this has been going on for a fortnight, whereas if little children had had the reins, this disgusting business — yes it is disgusting — would have been over in half an hour with perhaps a glass of Ovaltine.

Now we learn that Imran "had never used the word 'cheat' against anyone but himself" (how twee!), but he admitted that he had once, in 1981, used a bottle to tamper with the ball in order to clarify the demarcation between "cheating and common practice". (That's 15 years ago — this guy has got one hell of a memory.)

But let me come back to where I started, viz., the duo known (by me at least), Messrs Carman and Gray. Sticking my nose in a bit further, I wonder whether the two are bosom pals or hate each other. It wouldn't mean anything — no, I have never asked a barrister how he could fight for one side on Monday and fight for the other side on Tuesday — but out of sheer inquisitiveness I would like to know. At least, if Carman is the tops, Gray must be called the runner-up. But there go both together, shovelling in the money from the fools who go to court. And fools they certainly are. There are many honourable law-

yers who try to head-off the eager plaintiff, knowing that the plaintiff's cause is hopeless, and there are many plaintiffs who insist that they must go on with the case, only to go bust in the end. Who said "A fool and his money are soon parted"?

I would love to know what the judge thinks when such stuff lands on his bench. Take the very case we have been talking about. Presumably the judge cannot tell the entire lot to go home and boil their heads for a turnip? But, oh, if he is a case-hardened justice, how he would despise every single person in this pestiferous nonsense.

Let me come back for a moment to Messrs Carman and Gray. They won't tell us, but I would love to know this too: if a really well-heeled fool arrives at his desk, does he have even a twinge of conscience?

But that leads to the most remarkable part of this business. How, and indeed why, did we get so extraordinary a legal system — a system, that is, that matches the gladiators of the Ancient Romans? Don't you think it is strange — strange to the point of absurdity?

Hark. Two men or women — only two — stand up, in turn, and try to bamboozle the 12 men and women who are called the jury. (For me, the jury system, is the greatest and most profoundly necessary part of our legal system.) Stop for a moment and think how peculiar it is that our system turns on just two men or women: the two simply stand up and argue. One of the two, or even both, could be ill, mad, drunk, stupid, deaf, bribed (though that is rare), or any of those together. But the whole system swings on the greater eloquence of one of two persons. Is that not very peculiar? And I would go further — I think it is, or certainly could be — dangerous.

No, Carman, QC, and Gray, ditto, are not going to organise a *putsch*, overthrow the Royal Family and drive the Cabinet out of the country. (Though perhaps...) There are, of course, checks and balances, notably the ones I pointed out a few paragraphs back. But then I am coming back to the horrible mess with which this business started. Yes, I agree, these people were using their own or others' money, but they were not using ours. So why should I get hot under the collar? Because, although the collar is not mine, and I would not touch it with tweezers, we make our legal system a little bit more absurd when these idiosyncrasies take place.

Anyway, neither Carman, QC, nor Gray, ditto, is going to beg his bread in the gutter, and even if they have to, they could rely on me for a slice of cake.

Palace pink

FLAMINGOS are to be shipped in to Buckingham Palace, replacing the eight savagely butchered by an urban fox in February.

A mission has already travelled up from the Slimbridge Wildfowl



Pretty flamingos

and Wetland Trust, Gloucestershire, to inspect the lake at the Palace and advise on security for the creatures. The murderous fox, which skidded across a frozen lake to tear into the helpless fowl, was never captured. Residents of Victoria, however, found pink feathers strewn across their gardens for days afterwards.

Until the massacre, the Queen's flamingos were a welcome conversational gambit at royal garden parties. "We have suggested predatory proof fencing before the Queen buys any more," says an aviculturist at Slimbridge.

The twitchers advise that Her Majesty invest in a flock of Chilean birds, at just £1,200 each. They can easily be kept a Cartland pink with a simple diet of Dutch cockles and shrimps.

The Queen will not, however, be buying the birds until after their noisy autumn mating season.

Down a bomb

POISONED umbrellas went clattering to the floor at M15 HQ in central London the other day as Martin McGuinness, chairman of Sinn Féin, came ambulating through the door.

"What's he doing here?" hissed an official into the marble silence. Feeling the chilly stares, McGuinness's entourage processed to the reception desk and asked to be sent up to see a Labour MP.

After blank looks from the recep-

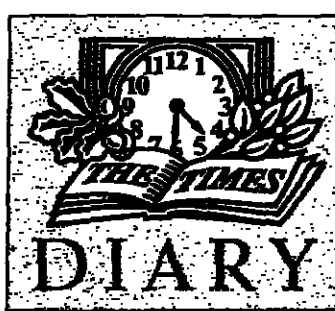
tionists and some low Irish murmurs down the telephone, the group bustled out to look at the name plate outside. Their mistake. They had intended to go several doors further along, to a block of parliamentary offices.

A tickled Republican explained McGuinness's casual demeanour as he strode into the lion's den: "He didn't know where he was. I don't know if M15 went bright red or very white and shaky when they realised who he was."

Journalists attending this year's Labour Party Conference in Blackpool have found a bizarre new section on their application forms for press passes. They are required to send in their car registration numbers — even if they are not taking their cars to the conference. "For the first time, the police have insisted on us having the same levels of security as the Conservatives this year," explains a Labour official, smugly.

Cakewalk

DEBUTANTES are torn over the future of the cake at the Queen Charlotte's Ball. Traditionally, the debbs have tottered down a grand stairway in their white frocks and heels before curtsying to a colossal



6ft cake. For the giant pastry symbolises royalty.

In the latest edition of *Hello!* magazine, however, the Countess of St Andrews, the new chairman of the Queen Charlotte's Hospital Appeal, declares her intention to "emphasise the hospital and the research, and not be sidetracked by cakes". Viz: there will be no overgrown confection in future.

One who is not sorry to see the cake go is Lady Elizabeth Anson, party planner, whose own coming out was marked by her brother, the Earl of Lichfield, dropping mice on parachutes onto the passing debbs. "I don't think today's debbs will miss it at all," she says. "I found it completely ridiculous."

Metallurgists attending a recent convention at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, were sorely

let down. After three days of serious alloy talk the delegates gathered on the metal staircase for the end-of-conference photo. As the photographer raised the camera, the staircase fractured under their weight.

Fives alive

IT IS with Britain's unimpressive Olympic medal tally in mind that the *Diary* launches its campaign for the introduction of more British sports into the Games. If the Americans can have beach volleyball



"Too much Olympics"

and mountain biking, roll on Olympic Eton Fives.

Invented when two boys began whacking a ball between the buttresses of Eton College chapel, the game requires skill, fitness and snake-like cunning. Prominent players have included Lord Kingsdown, former Governor of the Bank of England, and the Marquess of Bath, known as Twitter at school. Prince William, a left-hander, is useful from the back of the court.

"For some reason it is very popular in Nigeria," says John Reynolds, 11 times World Eton Fives Champion. "There are new courts in Geneva and some in Nepal and Argentina. I used to fantasise about playing in the Olympics but it never happened." Tomorrow, shove ha'penny.

Stone me

JUST a year after the last Rolling Stones tour, Mick Jagger is keen to ride again. He is said to want to hit those few deprived corners of the world yet to feel the hot blast of the greatest rock band on earth.

Until the other members rally round, however, the 53-year-old grandpa and still agile hipswinger is turning his energies to movie-making with films about Che Gue-



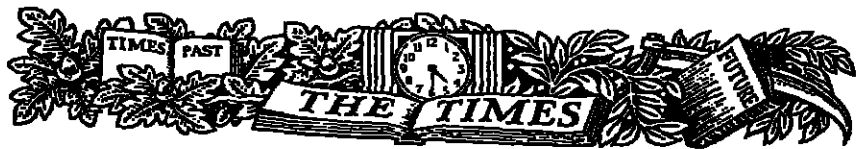
Flashing back: Jagger

vara and Dylan Thomas already planned.

Earlier this year, I reported that he is producing the movie of Robert Harris's novel *Enigma*. Next up is a spy thriller about Guevara and his love for an East German spy.

After that comes a bio-pic of Dylan Thomas. "He's very keen to develop his movie career," says an insider. "But he is determined to walk before he can run. He just does like to work."

P.H.S



A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE

Ministers are increasingly incredible over BSE

The announcement that BSE can, after all, be passed from cow to calf indicates that this Government still has not learnt how to handle the delicate matter of restoring confidence in British beef. Over four months ago Steven Dorrell, the Health Secretary, alarmed the public and distressed farmers with his maladroit presentation of new evidence which pointed to a link between BSE in cows and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Mr Dorrell's clumsy announcement provoked a public health panic whose consequences still haunt our countryside. Now Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, has again released complex and worrying scientific information in a manner bound to maximise concern. The credibility of this Administration has suffered another blow and it is a mercy for ministers that the Commons is not in session to give them the roasting they deserve.

The Ministry of Agriculture maintains that settled scientific opinion insists there is no new health risk as a result of this announcement. But the Government's BSE record suggests that today's settled scientific opinion can become tomorrow's discredited bromide. In 1988 the Government maintained that BSE could not be passed from cattle to humans. In 1989 the Government's scientists said the disease could not be passed from cow to calf. Both confident assertions have now been contradicted.

Mr Hogg's admission yesterday came only two weeks after public confidence in farming was further shaken when it was revealed that BSE could affect sheep. Before then ministers had doubted that the disease could spread in this fashion. The history of ministerial management of BSE is of complacency and casualness. No wonder the public's capacity to take them seriously has taken a battering.

The manner of yesterday's announcement by the Ministry of Agriculture certainly does not suggest a department confident in its conclusions. A private briefing and a bald press release with ministers fugitive for much of the day does not inspire faith. Neither does the content of the ministry's statement. Experiments suggest that BSE is passed from infected cows to calves in 10 per cent of cases. The Ministry argue the risk of transmission is, after adjustment, only 1 per cent. The Ministry may be right, but playing down risks and hoping for the best is not the way to restore confidence.

Consumer confidence, in this country and especially across Europe, has shown itself a fragile thing. Although the evidence may suggest that there is no new risk to human health the damage has already been done to hopes of an early lift to the ban on British beef exports. The political capital expended during the beef war bought little. Those gains are set at even less after yesterday.

Political reputations may fall further but ministers, by their mishandling of matters, are the authors of their own misfortune. The largely innocent victims of yesterday's debacle will be the farmers. The slaughter plan which compelled them to cull so many of their livestock looks certain to be extended. It is hard for farmers to face the early death of animals in whom they have invested so much, financially and emotionally. Even if the cull is extended there is little prospect of guaranteeing the eradication of the disease if it can pass from cow to calf. Farmers could face the prospect of the disease lingering in the cow population for years to come, and with it doubts, however unjustified, about British beef. Quality produce has been undermined by ill-qualified ministers. A price will have to be paid.

END OF THE NEW DEAL

Clinton has trumped Bob Dole's last ace

Sixty-one years after F.D. Roosevelt promised the America of the Great Depression a New Deal, President Clinton is poised to sign into law a radical Bill to reform the American welfare system. Both supporters and critics of the Bill, which is essentially of Republican design, claim that it will assign to history not only the great web of federally-guaranteed aid to the poor, but the social contract at the heart of New Deal liberalism.

The electoral calculation behind Mr Clinton's decision is obvious. He fought and won the 1992 election as a New Democrat who had distanced himself from his party's big-spending liberal wing. Nothing so clearly defined the profile he then presented to voters — and in particular to suburban white Americans worried about their taxes — as his pledge of "an end to welfare as we know it". Having vetoed two earlier drafts of this legislation, a third vote would have laid the President wide open to Republican taunts that behind the reforming façade was just another untrustworthy, unreconstructed liberal Democrat. By promising to sign it, he trumps Senator Bob Dole's ace.

Whatever the politics involved, the decision is the right one. Whatever claims can be made for America's nationalised welfare system, it has undoubtedly fostered welfare dependency; it has demonstrably failed to get rid of acute poverty; and public support for open-ended welfare payments has long ago evaporated. The Bill's main provisions — to require the able-bodied to return to work after two years on benefit, to limit lifetime welfare assistance to five years per family, and to shift authority over welfare spending from Washington to state capitals — have solid bipartisan support.

The Bill does not, however, merely decentralise decisions about eligibility and management, through the introduction of

federal block grants to states. It will also cut the federal bill, by \$55 billion over six years. This will not automatically, as liberal Democrats allege, "throw a million into poverty"; but states will have to make up the shortfall in federal grant, or scale back their programmes. State taxes are highly devolved to local level, and taxpayers in affluent suburbs may prove no reader to pay higher state taxes to help the inner city poor in their own state than they are to fund a federal programme. The Bill deserves to be given a chance to work; but it is, deliberately, patchy in design and it could be even patchier in implementation.

Mr Clinton will be well satisfied to have forced the Republicans to share the credit for a popular reform. But with this Bill, he also buries a once hugely influential part of the Democratic Party, the broad coalition of unionised labour, urban blacks, northern liberals and parts of the business community that supported big government in the name of social justice.

The funeral wake could be stormy, splitting next month's Democratic Convention, if the vote in the House of Representatives is anything to go by: 98 Democrats voted for, and 98 against. The split could even affect turn-out. Mr Clinton's promise, if re-elected, to repeal clauses which have caused most anger among Democrat activists, including the exclusion of legal immigrants from benefits, may not appease the local teams who run get-out-the-vote operations. Mr Clinton knows, however, that the Right now makes the political running in America. Mr Clinton won in 1992 by convincing voters that he was ready to redraw the boundaries of the State. To win in 1996, he had to provide concrete proof that he was ready to face down the battalions of tradition in his party. This he has now done.

A TALE OF TWO SUMMERS

Nothing compares with the unique British seaside experience

A hundred summers ago Queen Victoria celebrated her diamond jubilee with a conference of prime ministers from all her colonies. The Colonial Secretary, Joseph Chamberlain, declared that the Empire must unite if it was to survive the growing power of continental rivals. At Bexhill Lord de la Warr's XI beat the touring Australians. A newspaper entitled the *Daily Mail* began publication: its competitors expressed doubts about whether there was a niche in the market for it. And at Eastbourne, Susanna Barratt and her 18-year-old daughter Sarah opened a boarding house for the booming British summer holiday trade.

Today Queen Victoria's great-great-granddaughter sits on the throne. The British Empire is one with Nineveh and Tyre. No English XI is likely to beat the Australians at Bexhill, or elsewhere. But, as we report on page 6, the Barratt's York House Hotel in Eastbourne is still in business, having been owned and managed by the same family for a century. No other hotel has come forward to claim such continuity, so it is celebrating its centenary of the great British summer holiday alone.

In August 1896 the price of dinner, bed and breakfast for one for a week in the York House Hotel was £18 8 shillings. This August it is £252. The great-grandson of the founding matriarch who manages the hotel wishes to halt such rampant inflation. And there have been changes in other things than the tariff. Running hot water has been

installed, and television. In 1896 the first Olympic Games of the modern era were being held in Athens, mercifully without television. In 1996 guests at York House are glued to Atlanta. In 1896 fresh sea water was carried upstairs for bathing, and guests scandalised Victorian prudery with their bathing costumes on the parade.

Empires and dynasties pass, and the pound in the holidaymaker's pocket dwindles. But the York House Hotel is a breakwater of continuity in a surging world. From Eastbourne to Sidmouth, and from Whitby to Frinton, such comfortable seaside establishments offer the attractions of bracing bucket-and-spade escape with respectability, cream teas and a piano tinkling old tunes in the ballroom. All are part of the great British seaside heritage.

Britons have gone after the sunburn and hot sands of the Costa Brava, the Caribbean and Florida. Package tours have brought exotic oceans within the reach, purse and tourist-one-upmanship of most people. But in its annual report today the English Tourist Board shows that the great British seaside holiday is still booming after a century of change. Forget foreign temptations and alien ways. Those Barratts helped to create a peculiar British treasure in 1896. A century from now Britain will have changed in unpredictable and unimaginable ways. But come hail and high water, places such as the York House Hotel will still be plying their very British escapade trade.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Shepherd's 'threat' to excellence of university research

From Professor Graham Zellik

Sir, You report (July 29) that Gillian Shepherd is to put forward a plan to the Dearing committee on higher education funding for research funding to be concentrated in a "premier league" of universities. This comes as no surprise, since a small group of vice-chancellors has been berating ministers and officials for some time now with a beguiling argument, which runs as follows:

Present funding levels imperil quality research across the whole higher education sector; we shall soon have no research of international quality left; we know there is no extra government money, but if only ministers would ensure that all or most of the existing research money were concentrated in just a handful of institutions, then we could secure a group of internationally recognised research universities.

The argument is spurious. The higher education funding councils already distribute virtually all their funds for research on the basis of quality, and the additional funds from the research councils, charities, industry, the EU and other sources are also carefully judged and highly competitive.

Oxford and Cambridge lead the field in England by a wide margin with research funds from all sources exceeding £100 million. There is then a group of five universities whose total research income ranges from about £60 million to £90 million (Birmingham, Imperial, Leeds, Manchester and University College London).

Then come a group of eight with research funding from £40 million (Bristol, King's College London, Liverpool, Queen Mary and Westfield, Sheffield, Southampton, Nottingham and Newcastle).

Is it really Mrs Shepherd's wish to divert research funds from these institutions in order to sustain the others? And what about Leicester, Sussex, Warwick and others which fall off this list because of size, and the many small, highly specialised institutions of international distinction?

The simple fact is that such a policy would destroy a whole range of research universities and would have only the most modest impact on those institutions at the top of the list. The present research funding arrangements already reward the most successful and encourage them to grow bigger. They are rewarded financially for recruiting good staff from other universities but there is no evidence that the work done in these bigger departments is any better than what was being done in their previous institutions.

This Government's policies on student expansion coupled with reductions in unit funding already threaten the international standing and quality of our university system. This latest proposal suggests it is now bent on destroying the research status of most of Britain's research universities.

Some of us will resist this misguided and pernicious development at every opportunity. Yours faithfully, GRAHAM ZELICK (Principal), Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, E1 4NS, July 29.

From the Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge

Sir, The national academies' group which studied the "Research Capability of the University System", which I chaired, did not support a "super league scheme" for British universities, as your report comes perilously close to implying. We were gravely concerned at the underfunding of the university system, not least for research; and in our view this would lead inevitably to a concentration of research funds in some university departments rather than others, based on the national assessments of research quality.

In short, we were particularly concerned to maintain the excellence of UK research measured against international standards, in whatever university it is to be found.

Yours faithfully, DAVID HARRISON, The Master's Lodge, Selwyn College, Cambridge.

From Dr B. W. Manley, FEENG

Sir, While universities remain seriously underfunded it is indeed imperative only to reward excellence in research. However, that is assessed at the departmental level within universities, not at the level of the whole university.

One of the great advances of this Government was to remove the division between polytechnic and university and to provide a single funding structure that would reward excellence wherever it was present; for this same Government to propose returning to a two-tier system is perverse, and would lose all that has been gained on both sides of the divide. Some of our "new" universities do good research in particular sectors, sometimes not matched by many older universities. None is good at everything.

Excellence in research must be rewarded at a level of funding that will ensure that it is of a world class. There are two solutions. We could fund our university research at a level equivalent to that in Germany, Japan, France or the USA, where the national benefits that it brings are recognised. Or we must find ways of rationing what we have. The mechanism is already in place to do that through the four-yearly research assessment exercise: we do not need to invent super-universities in order to make the best of a bad job.

Yours sincerely, BRIAN MANLEY (Senior Vice-President, Royal Academy of Engineering, 1994-96), Hopkins Crank, Ditching Common, Hassocks, Sussex.

From the Principals of the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh

Sir, In your report on plans for "a premier league" of British universities, you list eight top research spenders. In that list, however, you omit the two leading Scottish universities.

The latest available data (for 1994-95) show the universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow at 5th and 7th in the UK respectively, as gainers both of external research grants and contracts, and of research allocations from funding councils. Both our universities, therefore, must figure prominently in any elite cadre of British universities.

Yours sincerely, GRAEME DAVIES, Principal, University of Glasgow, STEWART SUTHERLAND, Principal, University of Edinburgh, The University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, July 29.

trums such as sports scholarships and a sports academy (report, July 25).

Yours sincerely, PAUL WALKER, 8 Church Avenue, Sneyd Park, Bristol, Somerset, August 1.

From Mr Geoffrey Peake

Sir, As in so many other walks of British life, the reason for our lacklustre sporting performance seems to be that there is no committed or sustained long-term investment. Instead of continuing to trundle out, time after time, sportspeople who have reached, if not gone past, their "sell by date", we should be supporting and preparing future generations for sustained good performances. It is embarrassing to see people appear at events who cannot succeed and should have retired gracefully at the right time.

Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY PEAKE, 113 Mottram Old Road, Stalybridge, Cheshire.

From Mrs S. Prichard

Sir, Our first, and so far only, gold medal winner is a man who has devoted his life to the true Olympic spirit and, in the history of the Games, is only the fourth person to achieve a gold medal in four consecutive Games: so shouldn't it have been rowing Steven Redgrave who had the honour of prime position on the front page of *The Times* this morning rather than Linford Christie?

Yours faithfully, S. PRICHARD, North End House, Chiddingfold, Surrey, July 29.

welfare of the patient throughout the process. Your report on medical tasks performed by non-medically qualified health professionals concentrated on surgical procedures but the questions raised by the Joint Consultants Committee's document apply equally to non-surgical activities, including diagnostic procedures.

Thus when a specialist refers a patient to a consultant radiologist in an X-ray department, he or she may be examined by a non-medically qualified radiographer. In these circumstances we suggest the patient should always be told the status of the person undertaking the examination and that of the medically qualified consultant radiologist responsible for the work of that member of staff.

There is a need for a public debate on the issue of non-medical health professionals extending their role but we suggest the general medical training given to doctors before they specialise is an important safeguard for a patient whose illness may not always fit into a narrow area of special skill.

Yours faithfully, M. J. BRINDLE, President, The Royal College of Radiologists, 38 Portland Place, W1, July 28.

Aldeburgh at odds on Britten statue

From Mr Mstislav Rostropovich and others

Sir, Included in *The Times* of July 24 was a report by Delya Alberger entitled "Aldeburgh prefers bird table to statue of Benjamin Britten" (see also letter, July 26; article, July 30). Benjamin Britten was, without doubt, one of the greatest composers of the 20th century, and we hope that the town of Aldeburgh will consider it an honour to erect a statue in the centre of the town to celebrate his genius and his love of Aldeburgh.

Yours faithfully, M. ROSTROPOVICH, COLIN DAVIS, GENNADI ROZHDESTVENSKY, GEORG SOLT, c/o London Symphony Orchestra, Level 6, Barbican Centre, EC2, August 1.

From Mr Gideon Sherman

Sir, I would like to propose a conceptual strategy in response to the problem of commemorating Sir Benjamin Britten in Aldeburgh:

1) Commission statue of Britten and select site;
2) Dig hole and bury statue six foot underground.

As well as representing the continued presence and absence of Benjamin Britten, in the long term this approach offers opportunity for revision in accordance with changes in local sentiment, levels of unemployment, and prevailing economic, aesthetic and curatorial doctrine.

Yours faithfully, GIDEON SHERMAN, 33 Fournier Street, E1, July 30.

From Mr Peter Kirwan

Sir, Had they not voted for them, one would have to pity the citizens of Aldeburgh, their affairs being managed by such councils.

George Crabbe must be a front-runner for the title of England's most forgotten poet; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson's name is well known in London's Camden, where a hospital bears her name though (unjustly) few know why. But for Britten no one would know of sleepy little Aldeburgh or, come to that, of their councillors' weighty discussions of the relative merits of a bird table or a tree.

Yours faithfully, PETER KIRWAN, 4 Route Neuve, 34150 Montpeyroux, France, July 26.

From Mrs Patricia Maguire

Sir, I think Benjamin Britten would have been highly amused by the arguments over his proposed statue... he might even have written an opera on the subject.

However, would not the figure of Peter Grimes be a suitable memorial? He was the character created in *The Borough*, a poem by another of Aldeburgh's celebrities, George Crabbe; he later became the subject of Britten's most renowned opera; and he was a fisherman.

Yours faithfully, TRICIA MAGUIRE, Manor Farm, Benhall Green, Saxmundham, Suffolk, July 26.

Cabbies' hours

From Mr Peter Gibson

Sir, Mr Geoffrey Orme (letter, July 31) asks whether black-cab drivers are subject to the same hours restrictions as other commercial drivers. The answer is that licensed taxi drivers in London are self-employed and as such their hours are not subject to any restrictions. The type of work they do means several natural breaks — quiet periods of trade and meal stops for example — during the day/night.

The Radio Taxis driver who took the young lady from Waterloo to Dun-dee (report, later editions, July 25) took several breaks on the way there. On his return he stopped and slept for four hours before continuing home, and then took two days off.

Yours etc, PETER GIBSON (Head of Strategic Development), Radio Taxis, Mountview House, Lennox Road, N4, August 1.

A cup overflowing?

From Dr R. C. Cooledge

Sir, Mr Terence Wiseman (letter, July 29) remarks that the Reverend David Burrell has withdrawn his acceptance of the post of Priest-in-charge of 12 parishes in Norfolk, and wonders whether his note-paper was not large enough.

Interestingly I learn that he has now accepted the post of Priest-in-charge of Culford, West Stow and Wordwell, Flinton with Hengrave and Lackford, Fornham All Saints, Fornham St Martin with Fornham St Genevieve, and Timworth.

Yours faithfully, R. C. COOLEGGE, Conewood House, 10 Parklands Green, Fornham St Genevieve, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, July 30.

Safety campaigning

From Mr Tim Challis

Sir, I must take issue with your obituary for James Tye, the Director General of the British Safety Council (July 24; also letters, July 25, 26).

As somebody who worked with Tye in the mid-1980s, and who co-authored a book with him a year or so later, I knew first-hand of his many failings. Equally, as his Chief Press Officer during this period, I am only too aware of the fact that he was an inveterate self-publicist.

However, to dismiss either Tye or the British Safety Council as not bearing much investigation, as your obituary does, is simply not fair. Tye's antics brought him admirers as well as critics, and he often campaigned on issues, such as the availability of lethal weapons, that generated considerable parliamentary and public sympathy.

Tye's National Safety Awards scheme was laudable, but at least it engaged some safety awareness in small companies, many of which were unlikely ever to receive an official inspection. The Safety Council offered a range of information, training and publicity services.

The public are often exasperated by the inertia of official institutions, which allow incidents such as the Hungerford massacre to repeat themselves before anything is done. That is why Tye flourished: not simply because he was a self-publicist, but because the public needed somebody like him, whatever his motives, to cause mischief and question accepted procedures.

Yours faithfully, TIM CHALLIS, 25 Victoria Terrace, Todmorden, West Yorkshire, July 26.

Medical safeguards

From the General Secretary of the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists

Sir, Your report (July 24, later editions) that the Joint Consultants Committee has recommended that each specialist profession must agree which medical procedures could safely be delegated to non-doctors includes a reference to poorly trained and inadequately supervised chiropodists. This, by implication, includes those that are state registered.

Anyone can set up in a private practice as a chiropodist but to become state registered, and thus to work in the NHS, a chiropodist must complete a three-year honours degree course. A state-registered chiropodist would undoubtedly recognise "signs of poor circulation caused by heart disease" and make an appropriate and immediate referral to a registered medical practitioner.

This Society would entirely support the initiative of the Joint Consultants Committee to regulate surgical practice. However, we would remind the medical profession that state-registered chiropodists are independent practitioners who have developed, a successful approach to minor foot surgery, based upon rigorous training, assessment and examination involving supportive members of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Britain's lack of success in Atlanta

From Councillor Dr Paul Walker

Sir, The current furor over our dismal performance in Atlanta ("Medal famine prompts a ministerial intervention", later editions, July 31; letters, August 1) is a cause for surprise; the low medal count itself is not. It was entirely predictable.

As a practising epidemiologist I know, as an empirically demonstrable fact, that the parts of a population are representative of the whole. Thus, for example, in a population which consumes a lot of alcohol there will be a high proportion of people who are alcoholics and problem drinkers. In a population with a low overall consumption the equivalent proportion will be low. So also with sporting performance. Our performance at the Olympics, as in soccer, tennis, cricket, etc, is thus a reflection of a low overall sporting prowess nationally — at representative, club and community levels.

This state of affairs is widely and wrongly ascribed to inadequate facilities and financial support. The true underlying cause of our generally low level of sporting attainment, like that of our low levels of academic, research and managerial achievements, is the prevalent depressed state of the national psyche — the much talked-about lack of "feel-good" factor is only the tip of the iceberg. This state is itself caused by, among other things, decades of poor or misguided political leadership and our pervasive backward-looking culture.

Sporting performance is not a dissociated entity. Like handwriting, gait, speech, etc, in individuals it is an important indicator of the collective psyche and one that merits serious attention — not just the application of nos-

cessful approach to minor foot surgery, based upon rigorous training, assessment and examination involving supportive members of the Royal College of Surgeons.

The Department of Health encouraged the development of such surgery in the NHS in the Report of the Joint DoH/NHS Chiropody Task Force of 1994.

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN TROUNCER, General Secretary, Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists, 53 Welbeck Street, W1.

From the President of The Royal College of Radiologists

Sir, When a patient consults a doctor, together they address a clinical problem. The doctor may then seek assistance from non-medical health staff through a process of proper delegation, but retains responsibility for the

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR JOHN LORBER

John Lorber, paediatrician, died on July 2 aged 80. He was born on October 12, 1915.

JOHN LORBER'S career in paediatrics exemplified the value that the National Health Service gives to child care; but it also led him into the very centre of problems that arise when advancing medical care comes into conflict with ethics and the economics of survival.

Born in Budapest, where his father was the director of a private medical clinic, Lorber attended the Lutheran public school in that city. From there he went on to train as a doctor at the University of Pecs and, later, at the University of Budapest. He also spent periods working at the University of Helsinki and in the Department of Neurosurgery at Manchester University.

In 1938, thanks to the political situation then prevailing under Admiral Horthy in Hungary, he and his younger brother escaped to England with virtually no money but with a bundle of unframed oil paintings and instructions from their father to sell them as a last resort. A little later their father was arrested and sent to a concentration camp, where he died. Their mother evaded the same fate by feigning death while hiding in a ditch. She also was later able to escape to England.

In Cambridge, after doing some labouring jobs, Lorber was able to continue his medical education via the university and Guy's Hospital, being supported by grants from the British Council, Fitzwilliam House, and the International Students Association. He qualified MB, ChB at Guy's Hospital in 1944 having won the Gold Medal in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He did his house physician and surgeon appointments at Guy's Hospital with A. H. Duthwaite and R. C. Brock. He then became a senior medical officer at the County Hospital, Dartford. It was in Dartford that he met his wife Joan, who was the radiographer at that hospital. He became a naturalised British subject in 1947 and obtained his MRCP in 1948.

It was in that same year that he was appointed as a research assistant in Child Health in the department of Ronald Illingworth at the University of Sheffield. He came to Sheffield just a week after the birth of the National Health Service in July 1948. He spent his whole paediatric career at the Sheffield Children's Hospital going through the stages of being Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader and, in 1979,



becoming Professor of Paediatrics. In later years in his introductory lectures to students Lorber would always ask: "Do you know who was the greatest paediatrician of all time?" The answer remained after his 33 years at the Sheffield Children's Hospital: "Aneurin Bevan, the father of the National Health Service."

In Sheffield his first work was with Spyrus Doxiadis related to acute rheumatic fever but he was soon diverted to the problems of childhood tuberculosis and took up this topic with great enthusiasm. At that time tuberculosis was an extremely common condition in childhood (there were up to 50 deaths a year from it in the hospital) and a wing of the hospital, which was known as "the block" (a discarded child reformatory), was put over entirely to treating these children.

Lorber took an active role in the treatment of tuberculosis with Streptomycin and completed his MD thesis on this subject for the University of Cambridge in 1951. He set up one of the

most active community units in the country. This, combined with his very early introduction of BCG vaccination and his meticulous follow-up procedures made Sheffield one of the first major cities to eliminate lethal childhood tuberculosis.

By the 1950s acute rheumatic fever and tuberculosis had been largely mastered and the problem of birth defects, in particular meningomyelocele and hydrocephalus, came to the fore. At this time Sheffield was fortunate in having two surgeons who were very active in this field, the general paediatric surgeon Robert Zachary and the orthopaedic surgeon John Sharrard.

Lorber combined with these innovative surgeons to set up a comprehensive surgical and medical treatment programme for some children. At that time this was a somewhat revolutionary concept as the outcome for these children had been almost universally disastrous. The medico-surgical unit that developed made Sheffield one of

the best known centres for the treatment of spina bifida in the world. The result of this was that cases were referred to Sheffield from almost all parts of the world and a very large number of children were treated there. A major strength of Sheffield over rival units in Liverpool and Carshalton was the meticulous recording work carried out by Lorber with these children.

This enthusiastic treatment led to the local development of special community support units and special schools in the belief that a cure had been largely found for this severe deformity. However, it soon became apparent that there had been an excessive degree of medical optimism. There was an increasing number of surviving children whose quality of life was poor and who would never be self-supporting. Lorber had a profound sympathy with such children and these disasters had a very great effect upon him. He managed to survive by taking the step of introducing the concept of selection before treatment.

The vast number of cases of children treated in Sheffield enabled Lorber to work out "at birth" criteria related to the child's likely condition at ten years and he put forward criteria for a selection for treatment at birth. This provoked one of the most active and in some ways acrimonious disputes relating to child care of this century. Lorber set out the situation as he saw it in his Milroy Lecture to the Royal College of Physicians in 1975. His advocacy that certain children should not be treated but should be "allowed to die" in infancy affected almost every branch of paediatric care, and in particular nursing care, where "custodial care" was seen by some as child murder by deliberate neglect.

His criteria for selection have now become standard practice guidelines throughout the world — though his name in paediatrics will undoubtedly remain at the centre of what is perhaps the major medical and ethical problem of this century: the extent to which technical advances in surgery and medicine have led to the survival of children whose quality of life is so much reduced that the very ethics of their survival becomes questionable.

John Lorber was fortunate in having an able and supportive wife and her care for him in the terminal years of his life when he was smitten with an Alzheimer's-type disease equalled his own sympathy in the care of sick children. They had no children of their own but adopted two.

He is survived by his wife Jean, and his adopted son and daughter.

MARIE-ANTOINETTE LADD

Marie-Antoinette Ladd, former French governess to the Queen, died on July 28 aged 92. She was born on April 15, 1904.



THE Queen's admirable command of the French language owes much to the tuition of Marie-Antoinette Ladd who served as a governess from 1941 to the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. More widely known as Toni de Bellaigue — *Toni* to her friends — she taught the young princesses French language and European history for seven years.

But Marie-Antoinette Ladd was to become more than just a governess to the Queen. Despite the age gap between them and despite the fact that she lived abroad for several years, her relationship with the Queen survived throughout the half-century which has elapsed since she ceased to be the Queen's governess. When in recent years she returned to live in London, her relationship with the Queen became, perhaps, even closer. Well-read and with a penetrating intelligence, she was an especially good listener and intensely loyal. The Queen and she freely discussed the many interests they had in common.

Marie-Antoinette Ladd was born Marie-Antoinette Willem in Nivelles, Belgium. In 1928 she married a French nobleman, the Vicomte Pierre de Bellaigue, by whom in 1931 she had twin sons. She lived for a short time in Almeria where her husband was a mining engineer, but was forced by the climate and political unrest in Spain to take her sons to England where they were educated. She was on holiday with them in Belgium in May 1940 and was one of the last travellers to leave the country, via Calais, and return to England.

After a short spell of teaching in a finishing school in Wales which she never enjoyed, Marie-Antoinette was recommended by Lady Crewe for the post of governess to the two daughters of Lord and Lady Hardinge of Penshurst. At the time Lord Hardinge was Principal Private Secretary to King George VI and was living in Winchester Tower, Windsor Castle.

So successful had Marie-Antoinette Willem proved as a teacher that Lord Hardinge recommended her to King George VI in 1941, and she was asked to succeed "Monty" Mombaugh Smith as French governess to the two princesses, a post which she held till 1948.

Her marriage to her first husband did not long survive the war and she subsequently married first Eugene Untermyer, a New York lawyer, and

then, some years after his death in 1960, William Ladd, an international banker. From then on she lived partly in England but much of the time in Lebanon and America. Ladd died in 1987 and Marie-Antoinette took up permanent residence in London. She lived alone in Chelsea, dispensing hospitality to her friends and delighting in the achievements of her sons and their families, which culminated in the appointment as GCMG of her son Geoffrey on his retirement as Director of the Royal Collection earlier this year.

She is survived by her two sons, one of whom, Geoffrey, now lives with his wife, Sheila, who is Registrar of the Queen's Archives, in that part of the tower of Windsor Castle, where his mother had first gone to live when she had worked in the castle 55 years ago.

THE VEN RONALD COLE

The Ven Ronald Cole, Archdeacon of Leicester, 1963-80, died in Street, Somerset, on July 19 aged 82. He was born on October 20, 1913.



RONALD COLE was made an archdeacon in 1953 at the early age of 40, first of Loughborough and then, in 1963, of Leicester. The latter was a post in which he remained until his retirement in 1980.

Born into a very humble, devout Christian family living in south Tottenham, London, Ronald Berkeley Cole suffered from ill-health throughout much of his youth and, as a result, received only a limited education.

On leaving school, at the age of 14, he went to work with a firm of London stockbrokers and, after a lengthy spell of unemployment during the Depression, joined London Freehold Properties, a property-owning company where, after a few years, he was appointed registrar. It was here that he gained the knowledge of finance which was to serve him in such good stead in later life.

While working for London Freehold Properties, he studied mathematics, English, Greek and Latin, by correspondence course, rising to university matriculation standard. He then revealed, to the immense joy of his parents, that the reason for these studies had been to enable him to be accepted for training for the Ministry, which he was convinced was his vocation. He financed his time at the Low Church Bishops' College, Chesham, from the savings he had made during his years in business, together with his earnings as a labourer during college vacations. Only on the last day of his final stint on a building site did he reveal to his workmates the nature of his other life.

He was ordained deacon in Leicester Cathedral in 1942, by Bishop Guy Vernon Smith.

who, as Bishop Suffragan of Willesden, had confirmed him some 15 years earlier, and whom he was later to serve as his personal chaplain. He spent six years as curate of St Peter's, Braunstone, and two as successor of Leicester Cathedral, before being appointed vicar of St Philip's, Leicester, a living which he held for 17 years. During this time he became a familiar figure on his bicycle visiting parishioners.

One of his outstanding qualities was his administrative ability, recognised by his appointment to the Church of England Central Board of Finance, where he became vice-chairman. By his preference was for pastoral work and, when he finally retired to Sheringham, Norfolk, he offered his services to the Bishop of Norwich, and became rural dean for the Repps deanery. Until a few weeks before his death he conducted services almost every Sunday throughout the northeast Norfolk area.

Starting in the 1960s, he had

visited friends across the United States almost every year and preached in many Episcopalian and Presbyterian churches. His sermons, prepared at great length but delivered virtually without notes, were powerful and interesting and he maintained that he never preached the same sermon twice. When questioned about this a few years ago, however, he admitted that he had once preached this self-imposed rule.

During a visit to the Midwest he had preached a sermon in one small town and the same sermon a week later at a town over 100 miles away. Afterwards a woman member of the congregation approached him to compliment him on the sermon, while somewhat pointedly explaining that she had been so impressed the previous week that she had come to hear him preach a second time. He ruefully declared that he never broke his rule again.

Ronald Cole is survived by his wife Grace, a daughter and a son.

NIC OLIVIER

Nic Olivier, South African academic, anti-apartheid activist and politician, died on July 9 aged 76. He was born on September 15, 1919.

AS AN eminent academic and liberal politician, Nic Olivier incurred the wrath of successive apartheid governments for his prominent stand against their policies. He was a leading figure in the National Party's inner circle until 1960 when, in exasperation, he turned his back on white minority rule to become a vocal opponent. At the time he was the most prominent Afrikaner academic to speak out publicly against apartheid and in the following years his courageous opposition to the Nationalists simultaneously made him many enemies and inspired a generation of Afrikaners liberal thinkers.

One of 13 children born to an artisan father in the remote village of Pearston in the

Karoo, Nic Olivier was brought up in a traditional Afrikaans home on a diet of beerworts, blitjies and the Bible. His mother had been sentenced to death by the British during the Boer War for supplying provisions to Boer commandos — the sentence was later commuted — and though poor his parents were determined that their children should get ahead. After attending the local secondary school Olivier, supported by a public bursary, went on in 1938 to study at Stellenbosch University, where he took a degree in law.

After taking a masters degree in African administrative law he was appointed to the teaching staff of the university in 1946. Five years later at the age of 32 he became one of the youngest professors in South African history. Throughout these years he was a committed Nationalist.

But in 1954 his life was turned upside when he was appointed to the technical staff



of the Tomlinson Commission. The commission was set up to give flesh and bones to the apartheid thinking behind the segregation of Africans into their own territories. It recommended simultaneous economic and social development in order to sustain populations living in those areas. But the architect of apartheid, Hendrik Verwoerd,

then Minister of Native Affairs and later Prime Minister, would not accept the development proposal. Olivier, increasingly opposed to the development of the apartheid system along Verwoerdian lines, left the party in 1960.

Verwoerd was furious and set out to undermine Olivier. He was instrumental in having him thrown out of the South African Bureau for Racial Relations and, under pressure from the authorities, previously sympathetic Afrikaner academics shunned their colleague. It was during this period in the early 1960s that he divorced his Afrikaner wife and married a Jewish South African called Josie who ran a hotel in Stellenbosch.

Despite these trials and tribulations Olivier was known for his gregarious and warm nature. His tutelage presented hundreds of traditionally-minded Afrikaners students with an alternative

political perspective to which they might otherwise never have been exposed. Several went on to become involved in anti-apartheid politics and spoke of how they had been influenced by Olivier.

Almost inevitably Olivier was drawn into the political fray and for many years was a central figure on the opposition benches in parliament. In 1974 he became the United Party MP for Edenburg, a post he held for three years, and between 1980 and 1988 was an indirectly elected Progressive MP before he gave up his seat in early 1989 for Zach De Beer shortly before the PFP became the Democratic Party.

In addition to elected positions, he was director of research in the party. In that capacity he brought his academic knowledge and skills to bear on the political process, producing high quality analyses of policies and legislation. In many ways this helped to shape opposition to these measures and in some cases formed the basis of discriminatory legislation.

According to friends in the last years of his life, Olivier was an admirer of F. W. de Klerk, the National Party leader who in 1990 lifted the ban on the African National Congress and released Nelson Mandela. After the elections in 1994 Olivier was reconciled to his former political home when he took up a low key research job in the National Party. One of his legacies is the United States South African Leadership Exchange Programme which continues to this day.

He is survived by his first wife and five sons from that marriage.

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PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THOSE FOR WHOM THE TRIUMPHS OF RESEARCH WILL COME TOO LATE AND WHO NEED OUR HELP NOW

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DEATH OF LISZT.

VIENNA, AUG 1
Franz Liszt died last night at Bayreuth. About a week ago his illness was announced as a mere cold. He was already ill, however, when he arrived at Bayreuth, and it was contrary to his doctor's orders that he attended the performance of *Tristan and Isolde*, in the series of Wagner performances last Sunday, the 25th ult. He had to be carried in an armchair into his daughter's box. It was afterwards reported that he had been in a nervous, tearful state during the whole performance. On Tuesday his cold turned to inflammation of the lungs. He lost strength rapidly, and on Friday became delirious. The last Sacraments were administered to him yesterday, and he then had a glimmering of returning consciousness, but he never completely rallied. He died at the house of Herr Frohlich, near Wagner's villa Wahnfried.

ON THIS DAY

August 2, 1866
Franz Liszt (1811-1886), prolific composer and the greatest virtuoso pianist of his day, had a charismatic personality and attracted an enormous following by no means confined to the world of music.

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ON THIS DAY

August 2, 1866
Franz Liszt (1811-1886), prolific composer and the greatest virtuoso pianist of his day, had a charismatic personality and attracted an enormous following by no means confined to the world of music.

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TODAY

BUSINESS

Tough lessons for managers on outdoor courses
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ARTS

Robbie Williams plays it safe on his first solo single
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SPORT

Chinese diver extends her board monopoly
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TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES 38-39

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY AUGUST 2 1996



Making their mark: Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman of TE, and Brian Walsh, vice-chairman, are looking for bolt-on acquisitions. The engineering group increased profits by 43 per cent to £125 million in the first half. The trading outlook remains mixed. Page 22, Tempus 24

Yorkshire Electricity to boost dividend by 34%

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

YORKSHIRE Electricity yesterday kicked off what is expected to be a fresh round of bonanzas for utility shareholders, with the promise of a 34.4 per cent rise in next year's dividend. The move was seen as an attempt to thwart a windfall tax on privatised utilities.

Chris Hampson, chairman, revealed plans for the large increase in pay-out at the company's annual meeting in Grimsby. He said Yorkshire would deliver the value to shareholders because of its "continuing excellent performance". The company, one of the five independent regional electricity companies, also re-

newed its remit to spend about £110 million buying back 10 per cent of its own shares. City analysts are expecting a spate of shareholder bonanzas from the utilities as the possibility of a Labour government — with its threat of a windfall tax — moves closer.

A report from SBC Warburg, the broker, advises investors to expect returns of about £1.3 billion from several utilities in 1996-97, as they gear up in the approach to the election. It expects the more politically neutral share buy-backs to gain in popularity.

Electricity companies are likely to deliver far greater returns because they are less limited than the water companies by capital expenditure demands.

Since 1994 more than £5.8 billion has been returned by utility companies to shareholders in share buy-backs and special dividends. National Power made corporate history several weeks ago with a £1.1 billion special dividend.

Nigel Hawkins, utilities analyst with Yamaichi, said that the threat of a utilities tax from a new government was a consideration for companies planning shareholder returns. "They don't really want to serve up their balance sheets on a platter to a Labour government," he said.

On Wednesday, Thames Water spent £224.5 million buying back 10 per cent of its shares. Yorkshire hinted yesterday at fresh developments beyond

the dividend increase and buy-back authorisation. The company said that its board "intends to keep the issue of further returns of value to shareholders under review".

Yorkshire's net dividend will rise to 52.66p per share, compared with a 10 per cent increase previously forecast. The increase will be cut back to more modest proportions in 1997-98, with the company expecting a 7 per cent jump on the 96-97 figure.

The scale of the increase surprised the City and Yorkshire's share price jumped 26p to 707p. Expectations of similar action across the sector helped to lift the shares of a number of other regional electricity companies.

Utilities are expected to

become an increasingly emotive political subject as election campaigning starts in earnest. Labour is thought to be nurturing an armoury of fat-cat offensives as it reinforces its arguments for a windfall tax, which could net up to £5 billion.

Mr Hampson told shareholders that their boost was complemented by benefits to customers. He announced a 6.8 per cent reduction in electricity prices for domestic and small business customers, making Yorkshire's electricity the cheapest in the country.

However, 5.7 per cent of that decrease has been fuelled by the reduction in the fossil fuel levy announced recently by the electricity regulator after the flotation of British Energy.

Deutsche set to challenge both BT and Mercury

By ERIC REGULY

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM is planning a serious challenge to Mercury Communications and BT in the corporate telecommunications market by joining forces with Bell Cablemedia and Videotron.

The link with the two cable companies would give Deutsche Telekom access to the bulk of the business clients in Europe's financial capital because their franchises span Westminster, the City of London and Canary Wharf.

Bell Cablemedia and Videotron, in turn, would get an instant international partner because Deutsche Telekom, along with France Telecom and Sprint, the third-largest American long-distance carrier, is a member of the Global One partnership. Global One competes with Concert, BT's joint venture with MCI of America, and Unisource, which was formed by AT&T and several smaller European carriers.

Sources close to the talks said that equity links would tie Deutsche Telekom and the two cable companies together. Deutsche Telekom would buy up to 30 per cent of Bell Cablemedia, the third-largest cable company. Bell Cablemedia, in turn, would bid for Videotron, the sixth-largest cable company.

Videotron, controlled by Groupe Videotron of Montreal, has been on the auction block for months. Videotron is expected to go to Bell Cablemedia because it already owns 26 per cent. Goldman Sachs is handling the Videotron sale, and Deutsche Telekom has hired Robert Fleming & Co to help it to build a telecoms presence in Britain.

None of the companies would comment, though it is understood that the talks are well under way, with the goal of an announcement by the end of the month. Bringing Deutsche Telekom and Bell Cablemedia together faces complications because of the latter's ownership structure. Bell Cablemedia is owned 42 per cent by Bell Canada International, 12.3 per cent by Jones Interco, of Denver, and 12.8 per cent by Cable and Wireless, which owns 80 per cent of Mercury Communications.

Bell Canada International in principle supports the idea of bringing Deutsche Telekom on board, but C&W, observers said, may resist such a proposal because the new group could emerge as a leading competitor to Mercury in the business market.

Another loose end is Eurobell, a relatively small cable company that is indirectly owned by Deutsche Telekom and a trust, the beneficiary of which is J. Paul Getty. Eurobell, which considers its current ownership structure unworkable, may decide to link with Bell Cablemedia and Videotron if Deutsche Telekom completes the deal.

Cable companies have complained to Ofcom, the telecommunications watchdog, that BT is still approaching ex-directory cable customers to try to win them back. The complaint comes less than two weeks after Ofcom accepted BT's explanation that it did not intentionally use confidential information when it contacted the customers. BT blamed the calls on a computer encoding error.

TeleWest Communications, the largest cable company, yesterday said Stephen Davidson is to become acting chief executive. Mr Davidson, who was finance director, replaces Alan Michels, who resigned on Wednesday.

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100 3734.4 (+31.2)
Yield 4.11%
FT-SE All share 1848.04 (+12.80)
Nikkei 20884.83 (+292.00)
New York
Dow Jones 5554.81 (+25.90)*
S&P Composite 845.15 (+5.20)*

Federal Funds 5 1/4% (7%)
Long Bond 8 1/8% (87 1/2%)
Yield 6.84% (8.56%)

9-month Interbank 5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Libor long gilt 10 1/2% (10 1/2%)

New York
\$ 1.5575 (1.5568)
£ 1.5572 (1.5571)
\$ 2.2546 (2.2533)
FF 7.7891 (7.7819)
Sfr 1.5698 (1.5638)
Yen 168.24 (168.15)
£ Index 94.7 (94.6)

London
DM 1.4735 (1.4728)
FF 5.0025 (4.9980)
Sfr 1.2005 (1.1975)
Yen 168.24 (168.15)
£ Index 95.6 (95.6)

Tokyo close Yen 107.29

Brent 15-day (Oct) \$18.55 (\$18.60)

London close \$385.65 (\$385.25)
* denotes midday trading price

Shell target

John Jennings, chairman of Shell Transport & Trading, said the oil group was on target to raise its performance in spite of a downturn in profits for the second quarter. Analysts have reduced full-year forecasts.
Page 22, Tempus 24

Defence deal

The consolidation of the US defence industry took a big step forward with the \$3 billion purchase by Boeing, the world's largest aircraft manufacturer, of the defence and avionics businesses of Rockwell International.
Page 23, Pennington 23

Blow over Yorkshire Water debt

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

YORKSHIRE WATER suffered a fresh blow yesterday when Moody's credit agency downgraded its debt and raised fears over its water resources.

Moody's said its outlook for Yorkshire Water was negative. "If the current plan proves to be inadequate, the water business faces further significant expenditures and increased operational risk."

The agency said there were concerns over whether the management would deliver infrastructure spending without material increases over planned levels. Moody's downgraded long-term debt from A1 to Aa3. The short-term rating is unaffected.

Consumer confidence is lifting but not booming

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMER confidence is gradually improving across the country but there is no sign of a 1980s-style boom, according to a survey published today by Business Strategies.

David Fell, the director responsible for the quarterly consumer survey, said that the consumer side of the economy was picking up strongly. However, he gave warning that it was the generally high level of confidence that was impressive rather than any sign of rapid improvement.

The proportion of people who feel optimistic rather than pessimistic about the economic situation was double that recorded two years ago but still slightly lower than the same time last year. Optimism

about household finances was about the same as a year ago but there was a definite, although small, improvement in the proportion of people more willing to take the risk of a major purchase.

The overall measure of consumer sentiment — 15 — was the same as in the first and third quarters of last year but nevertheless marked a large improvement from the 10 recorded two years ago.

The Business Strategies finding came after another survey yesterday from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, which showed that British manufacturing expanded marginally in the second month in a row. It also showed that, for the second month running, it is

production and orders of consumer goods that have been the most buoyant sector. Orders of investment goods, which had been falling for five months, also returned to growth.

The overall Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 50.9 in July, compared with 50.7 in June. Output rose but at a slightly lower rate than in June. Any figure above 50 shows manufacturing is expanding, while a figure below that shows a contraction.

The most stunning element of the survey was that the institute's Prices Index fell to a new record low, proof that no inflationary pressures are emanating from industry and backing forecasts that retail prices are set to fall further.

House price rise 'highest for 7 years'

By OUR CITY STAFF

HOUSE prices rose last month at their highest rate for almost seven years, according to figures today from the Halifax Building Society. Prices for all types of homes were 5.3 per cent ahead of July last year, the fastest pace of increase since October 1989 and up from 4.0 per cent in June.

The cost of a property rose 0.5 per cent between June and July after a 0.4 downward blip between May and June, the only monthly fall for almost a year.

A spokesman for the Halifax, the UK's largest mortgage lender, said July's reversal of June's small fall supported the society's view that prices should remain broadly stable over the summer before starting to edge up again towards the end of the year.

Psion paid £1.5m in fees over Amstrad

By JASON NISSE

PSION, the maker of hand-held computers, spent £1.5 million in fees to City firms that investigated whether it should go ahead with its aborted £230 million bid approach for Amstrad, the electronics group run by Alan Sugar.

David Potter, Psion chairman, said the fees included work on assessing other potential purchases, and added: "They are modest when compared with what they would have been had we proceeded with the transaction."

Psion employed two merchant banks, Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Charterhouse, two firms of lawyers, Slaughter & May and Painsners, and

Arthur Andersen, the accountant, and Brunswick, the public relations firm. It began talking to Amstrad — after an approach by Mr Sugar — only in May and ended the talks last month when the two sides failed to agree on a price.

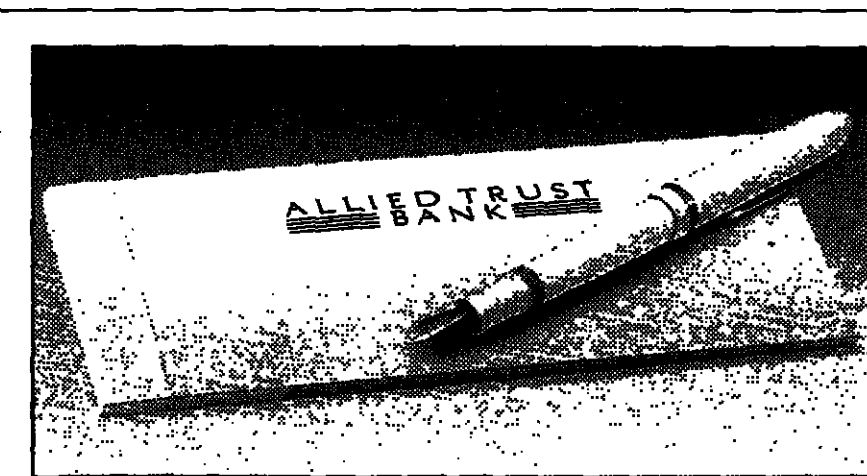
Even at top City rates of £300 an hour, the fees equate to 5,000 person hours on the case, or 3.5 professionals working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for all of the negotiations.

Mike Langley, Psion finance director, said that the fees were agreed before the talks. "This was a potentially extremely important acquisition for Psion and we needed the fullest and most professional advice," he said. Psion's declaration will, fuel the

debate on City fees, fired by disclosures that Granada's £3.9 billion bid for Forte cost £100 million and that the £3.2 billion merger of Lucas Industries and Varty will cost £29 million in fees.

Psion wrote off the costs in full in its half-year figures, brought forward to quell speculation about strategy after the Amstrad deal fell apart. Pre-tax profits, after writing off the £1.5 million, rose 27 per cent, to £6.5 million, underwritten largely by the success of Psion 3a palmtop computers. Earnings per share rose by 18 per cent, to 5.85p. An interim dividend of 0.65p (0.5p) is due on September 27.

Tempus, page 24



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□ Playing into Stagecoach's hands? □ Yorkshire's generosity to its shareholders □ Peace dividend comes at a price

Up the junction and off the rails

WHAT is the link between 50 former British Rail staff making £80 million profit in six months and the hardship half of London is going to suffer getting into work at the end of this month? The politics of rail, inevitably, sees a direct link, the fat cats creaming off the cash while the honest working man has to fight for his rights. The link is there, but it is a little more subtle.

The strikes are the first challenge to the new breed of train operators. Of the 25 operating franchises, seven private firms are already in charge, two will be hit by industrial action. The unions are well aware that the only way that seven, and the others that follow, can make a decent return is by cutting costs. In the same way, the Government sold off other grossly overmanned utilities so their management, newly incentivised by share options, would import stricter commercial disciplines to their dirty work for them (please delete according to political orientation).

The idea is that a smaller workforce has to work harder in future, as already achieved in the coach industry. The new owners, unlike the Government, have a genuine incentive to achieve cuts, but they are far more vulnerable to industrial action. Stop the trains, under public ownership, and the lost revenues come out of taxes. Stop them under private

ownership and the operators are still required to pay Railtrack for access to the line. There is a limit to how long they can endure.

The strikes this month, and those that will inevitably follow, will show which is the stronger force, incentivisation or industrial vulnerability. But add one further complication. In the shape of Brian Souter, Mr Souter wants to reintegrate part of the rail network by buying Porterbrook, which leases trains to the operators. His Stagecoach company already runs one franchise, South West, and wants more.

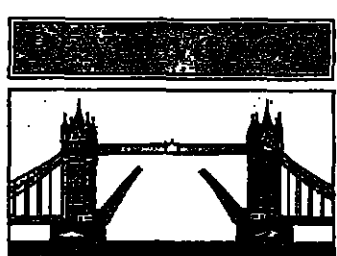
Labour politicians were in traditional knee-jerk mode about the bonuses to managers his bid for Porterbrook could — note, could — trigger. There must be a doubt whether the deal will evade a Monopolies & Mergers Commission reference, however hard Stagecoach may wriggle. There must be more doubt whether Mr Souter, teetotal evangelical Christian though he may be, is the right person to run the railways after the MMC damned his company's behaviour in an earlier report as

"predatory, deplorable and against the public interest".

But here is a third point to give the unions sleepless nights. Porterbrook, with its guaranteed revenues, is one of the safest vehicles on the railways, a point recognised by the low equity-to-debt ratio of the original management out. It provides an ideal cross-subsidy with which South West and others under the Stagecoach umbrella might ride out future strikes. The unions, by weakening other train operators to the point that the franchisees seek new owners such as Stagecoach, may end up doing Mr Souter's work for him.

Making free with the brass

IF THEY push the boat out much further in Yorkshire they will be half way across the North Sea. The dividend rises promised at Yorkshire Electricity's annual meeting would be startling in any industry. From one that faces instant penury within months, they look suicidal. There are three possible



explanations. Yorkshire is convinced there is a bidder on the horizon, and is getting its "scorched earth" policy in place first by demonstrating to shareholders the benefits of loyalty. Arguing against this is the fact that the 60-day bid timetable gives plenty of time to put such a defence in place. The history of utilities bids is littered with false starts, widely rumoured approaches that came to nothing. Yorkshire is now locked into making those payments, perhaps unnecessarily.

This explanation is bolstered by the renewal of the power to buy back 10 per cent of the share capital, another useful defensive measure, but not much use if the second alternative is the case. Is

Yorkshire trying, in a rather ham-fisted way, to avoid the utilities tax threatened by Labour for shortly after the election? Just as a man facing bankruptcy might put the house in his wife's name, is Yorkshire pledging to hand out any spare cash in order to plead poverty once Gordon Brown comes knocking?

This explanation, too, has its failings, not least because Yorkshire is among the more Blair-friendly of the utilities, deeply concerned, for example, that in a fully competitive market the poor may have to pay more than the rich for their electricity. More to the point, Mr Brown if he has any sense will not be much impressed by pleas of poverty. What has been given to shareholders can be taken back, if necessary, in the form of a rights issue. Promises of dividend rises can be set aside if circumstances change and the company can no longer afford it.

The third explanation is that Yorkshire, as executives claim, is committed to being a pure utility that does the job as cheaply as possible, paying any surplus cash to its owners, the shareholders. In

that case, and in spite of the talk of low prices, a matching gesture to customers might seem politically sensible at some stage.

Bullet messages from America

SUPERFICIALLY, Boeing's \$3.2 billion purchase of Rockwell's legendary and controversial space and defence business may seem of relatively little interest in Britain. At one level, it is merely the latest stage in the headlong consolidation of America's defence industry. As one Wall Street analyst put it: "This is what was forecast when the Berlin Wall fell. This is the peace dividend."

Shareholders clearly gain part of this dividend, via the benefits of tax-free financial engineering, plus the prospect of a less competitive, if shrunken, home market on which to base add-on export sales. Boeing evidently finds this attractive enough to boost its defence and space content from under 30 per cent to about 40 per cent.

This process is, however, creat-

ing powerful companies that few in Europe can compete with on level ground. Europe's consolidation is more piecemeal and unimpressive.

Transnational mergers are reckoned vital from a commercial standpoint, but no big country wants to sell its defence companies to another. France, which insists on being involved in all strategic European mergers, also insists on dominating them, naturally putting other countries off.

Britain, having traditionally the strongest defence industry outside America and the old USSR, is likely to be the biggest loser. Our best companies are bickering and coming to rely too much on a few potentially vulnerable customers. They should get together.

Fat cat claim

LABOUR Research has spoiled its survey of fat cats and golden handshakes by claiming the Greenbury report is not doing its proper job of preventing such abuses. Many, however, and certainly the most lucrative, predate Greenbury — some may even have helped to spark its creation. To adapt an old radical slogan that will be familiar to Labour Research, Greenbury is not part of the problem, it is part of the solution.

Record half-year profits for AIB fuelled by growth surge

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

DOUBLE-DIGIT profit growth across every division resulted yesterday in record half-year pre-tax profits for Allied Irish Bank Group. Ireland's largest banking group, which has Tom Mulcahy as chief executive, announced a 13.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to June 30 of Ir£201.1 million compared with Ir£177.1 million for the same period last year.

James Culliton, chairman who announced earlier this week that he would be stepping down at the end of this year, said he was confident that the next six months will see the trend continue. Earnings per share grew by 13.7 per cent to Ir£8.3 pence, with the company declaring an interim dividend of Ir£5.95 pence.

In the AIB bank division, which has retail interests in the Republic, Northern Ireland and Britain, profits jumped by 12.8 per cent, to Ir£102.2 million, on the back of robust lending growth. The Republic led the way with a 10.1 per cent increase, Northern Ireland rose by 6.3 per cent while in Britain it was 5.1 per cent. The success of a new range of long-term savings products marketed by Ask Life also contributed to profits.

In the insurance division, fee income and higher levels of mortgage activity resulted in a 14.5 per cent jump in profits, to Ir£56.9 million. The largest



Tom Mulcahy, chief executive of Allied Irish Bank: double-digit profit growth across all divisions in the first half

profit increases were in the smallest division, Capital Markets, which contributed Ir£34.9 million to the overall total — a jump of 21.2 per cent. A significant rise in interest income by the treasury section, and better returns from equity markets, were also key features.

For the first time profits from the John Govey group, which AIB acquired last year, were included in the accounts. A spokesman said the fund management group had "traded well during the period and its profit performance is well ahead of 1995". AIB said capital adequacy

remained strong, with the tier one ratio at 8.1 per cent, and the equity to assets ratio 4.8 per cent. The total capital ratio was 10.5 per cent. Although net interest income was up 4.5 per cent, to Ir£408.7 million, the interest margin at 3.45 per cent was down 21 basis points on the second half of 1995.

Looking ahead, Mr Culliton said that he expected Ireland's buoyant economy to fuel continuing strong loan demand, "although at a lower level than the first half". Economic upturns in both Britain and the US ensure underlying business trends there would continue to be positive, he added.

Abbey warns of mixed prospects

FROM EILEEN MCCABE, IN DUBLIN

ABBHEY, the Irish construction company, has given warning that prospects for the year ahead are mixed after a drop of more than 25 per cent in pre-tax profits, to Ir£6.2 million, for the year to April. A year ago, Abbey recorded profits of Ir£8.36 million.

Earnings per share were 11.17p, down from 15.08p. However, the dividend is up by 4.8 per cent, to 5.50p.

Charles Gallagher, chairman, said the main reason for the profits setback was the performance of the plant-hire division, whose profits fell to Ir£460,000, from Ir£1.7 million.

"Trading since the year end remains disappointing and any early improvement in trading depends mainly on a

faster rate of UK economic growth," he said.

Housebuilding, with 314 sales in the UK and 100 in the Irish Republic, generated operating profit of Ir£4 million, on turnover of Ir£34.2 million. It experienced some difficulties in Britain, but conditions in Ireland were buoyant, Abbey said.

Mr Gallagher said: "Prospects for the year ahead are mixed. Strong growth in the Irish operation and improving conditions for UK housing will be tempered by the continuing difficulties facing our plant-hire activities. Overall, we are hopeful of resumed progress. In the medium term, widespread forecasts of accelerating UK growth are a source of encouragement."

Littlewoods creating 250 jobs

LITTLEWOODS, the family-owned retail and pools group, yesterday announced the creation of 250 new jobs in Sunderland to back the launch of its new direct home-shopping catalogue (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The jobs, which include part-time work, are in the ordering and customer-query arm of the Index Extra catalogue, and involve people handling telephone orders.

Index Extra, launched nationally last month, provides the same range of goods through catalogue sales and the chain of high-street stores. It is a key to Littlewoods' fight for market share in the increasingly competitive catalogue-shopping business.

Sainsbury to run Homebase alone

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

J SAINSBURY is to become sole owner of Homebase, its DIY subsidiary, by buying the minority shareholding of GIB, the Belgian retailing group, in a deal worth £77.5 million.

The companies have agreed that Sainsbury will pay GIB £65 million in cash. Homebase will also repay a shareholder loan of £12.5 million made by GIB. The deal is scheduled for completion on Tuesday.

GIB had been thinking of selling out since the £290 million purchase of Texas Homebase by Sainsbury last year diluted its 25 per cent shareholding. It would have had to invest a further £40 million to take its holding back up to 25 per cent.

Sainsbury said yesterday. GIB is understood to want to concentrate on its DIY and food retailing operations in continental Europe.

Dino Adriano, Sainsbury's deputy chief executive and chairman of Homebase, said: "The acquisition of the minority stake in Homebase will enable the Sainsbury group to benefit fully from the continued growth of Homebase and the exciting potential of converting Texas to the Homebase format."

Homebase, together with Texas, has a 12 per cent market share and more than 330 stores. Homebase was set up in 1978 with £250,000 from GIB and £750,000 from Sainsbury.

Rockwell sells two divisions to Boeing for \$3bn

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE consolidation of the US defence industry has taken a big step forward with the \$3bn purchase by Boeing, the world's largest aircraft manufacturer, of the defence and avionics businesses of Rockwell International (see Pennington, this page).

Boeing has been looking for an acquisition in the defence field for some time, after the collapse of merger talks with McDonnell Douglas several months ago. Lockheed Martin, the largest US defence company, was formed recently by the merger of two leading arms groups.

Deep cuts in the US defence budget since the end of the Cold War have obliged companies to join forces to fight for the remaining contracts on a stronger footing. Raytheon and McDonnell Douglas are also said to be in merger talks.

The purchase will not only enable Boeing to bid more aggressively for defence business, it will also enable it to bid for a larger share of the lucrative space station contract in which it is already the largest contractor.

Phil Condit, Boeing's president and chief executive, said the deal will round out his company's strengths as a defence and space contractor. Among other prestige projects, Rockwell produces the B1 Bomber for the US Air Force, the main engines of the space shuttle, and global positioning systems for satellites. It also makes ballistic missiles and owns the technology of numerous other defence systems.

Boeing is paying \$860m in stock, and further \$220m to wipe out world debt. The rest of Rockwell will be left with automotive, semiconductor and electronics businesses, taking it almost completely out of the defence industry.

The defence operations being bought by Boeing have sales of \$3.2 billion, compared with \$5.6 billion of sales by Boeing's own defence division. The combined workforce of the merged operations will come to about 50,000 people, but Mr Condit said there was little overlap between the businesses and he expected few job losses to result.

Rockwell said that, having sold its defence operations, its remaining businesses were free to develop into new areas of civilian application particularly electronics.

Misys doubles and orders push ahead

BY FRASER NELSON

SHARES in Misys, the banking and insurance software company, jumped 14p to 777p after it reported almost doubled pre-tax profits of £50.4 million in the year to May 31 and an order book already 25 per cent ahead.

The group, which bought its rival ACT Banking for £193 million in February last year, saw sales in its banking division leap from £46.5 million to £139.6 million, half the group total of £280 million (£153 million). Misys, now the world leader in banking software, with 30 per cent of the

global market, said it was in pole position to benefit from a single European currency, which would require wide-scale modulation of banking software in its core European market. Kevin Lomax, chairman, said Misys was a pan-European operation that would capitalise on the changes, even if Britain does not agree to monetary union.

The final was increased 0.87p to 6.69p, making a total of 10.66p — 15 per cent ahead of last year's total, and providing four times cover. It will be paid on October 7.



SKF breaks into Japanese Automotive Market

For the first time in its history, SKF will sell wheel bearings directly to a Japanese car manufacturer in Japan. Despite very strong Japanese bearing competition, SKF signed a multi-year contract with Suzuki to supply Hub Units. The Hub Unit, a concept developed by SKF, is a unitised assembly, lubricated and adjusted at the factory to reduce maintenance and installation costs.

Decisive factors in Suzuki's decision included SKF's reputation for dependable, high quality products as well as SKF's global production and service network. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in September this year.

THE SKF GROUP'S CONSOLIDATED INCOME after financial income and expense for the first half of 1996: 1 475 million Swedish kronor (1 866). Sales: sek 17 528 m (19 487). Income after financial net for the second quarter: sek 664 m (959), sales sek 8 647 m (9 775). Fluctuations in exchange rates had a negative effect on sales, to the order of 9 per cent or approximately sek 1 700 m.

In the North American market, SKF is continuing to increase its sales to the automotive industry. Following the decision to build a new plant in the United States for the manufacture of Hub Units, further contracts have been secured, including another large order for these products by the leading U.S. manufacturer of truck axles.

The European market, however which accounts for almost 60 per cent of Group sales, showed a continued weakening in the demand for rolling bearings. All major markets, with the exception of France, showed the same weak trend.

Growth remains good in Asia. SKF's sales to the aftermarket are developing positively. One customer segment where SKF is recording increasing sales is the manufacture of motorcycles and scooters. The Group supplies the market primarily from its European plants.

The SKF Group operating income after depreciation for the first six months of 1996: sek 1 657 m (2 256). Financial net: sek -182 m (-390). This improvement can be attributed mainly to a positive outcome from forward transactions made to cover currency flows.

Earnings per share after tax sek 7.90 (10.85). Capital expenditures in property, plant and equipment sek 1 099 m (934). At the end of June, the Group financial assets were sek 3 660 (4 874) compared with sek 4 035 m at the beginning of the year. The return on capital employed July 1st 1995 - June 30th 1996 was 17.0 per cent (17.0). Return on shareholders' equity 16.0 per cent (19.4). Group solvency 31.3 per cent (29.9).

For a copy of the half-year report, please write to SKF Group Communication, S-415 30 Göteborg, Sweden, or access the Internet: <http://www.skf.se>

AVERAGE RATE OF EXCHANGE
1996: 1 GBP = 10.28 SEK. 1995: 1 GBP = 11.68 SEK.

SKF

Royal Bank buys SG Warburg custody division

BY FRASER NELSON

THE ROYAL Bank of Scotland is to buy SG Warburg's custody division for up to £20 million, making the bank Britain's second largest custody holder with assets of £250 billion.

The Royal Bank, whose chairman is Lord Younger, is to house the acquisition in a new subsidiary called the RBS Trust Bank. Together with the bank's existing custody unit, it is believed to be the only service offering a complete one-stop shop portfolio of custody and investment services.

At present, the Royal Bank's £170 billion of assets under custody make it Britain's third largest custody holder

behind Barclays and the Midland Bank. With the Warburg acquisition, which brings assets of £80 billion under custody, the Royal Bank will overtake Barclays to become the sixth largest custody holder in the world.

The Royal Bank is to pay between £5 million and £20 million for the holding, pending a valuation and due diligence.

Tim Sykes, an analyst at BZW Securities, said the deal was good for both parties. He said: "The global custody market is for major players only. Either you're a giant, or you're not in it. There's no half way. Warburg obviously decided they were not going to dominate."

The RBS Trust Bank will have a staff of 1,200. The Warburg acquisition adds third-party retail fund administration to the Royal Bank's existing service, as well as a strong relationship with Mercury Asset Management.

The new bank will also operate an in-house trade union, where staff elect representatives without any external organisations.

The decision to de-recognise the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union has brought it under fire from the BIFU, which has accused it of a "divide and rule policy", which it says will strain industrial relations.



Lord Younger will see a new subsidiary set up

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

US blow to Hanson plans for demerger

THE PROPOSED demerger of Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, has suffered a major setback. Last night, Hanson was nursing a fall of 4 1/2 p at 155.4 p on turnover of 22 million shares after it emerged that the group was having to undergo major restructuring at its SCM chemicals division in the US. Depressed market conditions had forced SCM to cut the price of its main product, titanium dioxide, used in paints, by up to 10 per cent in stark contrast to projections in the prospectus.

Brokers have begun downgrading their valuations for Hanson before the four-way split. SCM will form part of the Millennium Chemicals division, which is due to be demerged with the group's tobacco division on October 1.

Zafar Khan, of Société Générale Strauss Turbun, the broker, said the news would bring the valuation of the chemicals division under further scrutiny.

The demerger of Hanson into four separate parts — tobacco, chemicals, building materials and Hanson Electric — had been designed to enhance shareholder value. But after hitting 210p when the deal was first announced, its price has been in steady decline since. Institutional shareholders have been expressing increasing concern about the diminishing value of their investment.

The rest of the equity market extended this week's gains after a cautious start with the help of another firm start to trading on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed more than 50 points since the publication of the purchasing managers' report for July providing further evidence of an economic slowdown.

The FTSE 100 index closed just a shade below its best of the day with a rise of 31.2 at 3,734.4 on disappointing turnover of 631 million shares.

Bank of Scotland firmed 2 1/2 p to 230 1/2 p as BZW completed the sale of Standard Life's 24 per cent stake in the company for £772 million. There was evidence last night that Standard Life has begun ploughing some of those funds back into the market.

Premier Farnell, the subject of a merger between Farnell Electronics and Premier Industries, the US group, earlier this year, fell 18p to 608p as brokers began trim-



Brokers lowered estimates for Shell, whose shares fell to 911p

ming their profit forecasts. Merrill Lynch is believed to have cut its number for the current year by £17.5 million to £140 million. The moves follow a meeting with brokers earlier this week at which the company said that exchange rates had been working against it. After completion of the merger, Premier Farnell climbed from 640p to 670p.

After rejecting Hays' terms this week Christian Salvesen jumped 10p to 366p. As brokers point out, the Salvesen family, with 40 per cent of the shares, has left the door open to a higher offer from Hays. Word is it may be a straight cash offer of about 375p, with a deal of 400p for those willing to accept Hays paper.

Yorkshire Electricity got a warm response to plans to improve shareholder value by raising dividends sharply higher. The dividend payment for 1996-97 will soar 34.4 per cent to 52.6p, compared with last year's 10 per cent increase. In 1994, it distributed 90p a share and last year paid a special 100p dividend. The company is seeking shareholder permission to buy back

but has been in decline since then. Brokers expressed disappointment with interim figures from Shell showing a downturn in the second quarter. A number have begun lowering their profit estimates for the full year. The company blamed a poor performance from its chemical operations that saw its contribution halved. The shares reflected

the market's disappointment, shedding 1 1/2 p at 911p.

Some words of caution from Lasmo took the edge off an otherwise solid first-half performance that saw profits climb 24 per cent. Rudolph Agnew, chairman, said that the second half might be hit by higher exploration costs and interest charges. The shares finished 1 1/2 p firmer at 180 1/2 p.

Shares of Campbell & Armstrong, the shopfitter, were suspended at 10 1/2 p pending publication of details of a proposed reconstruction that will include the conversion of debt into equity. Delya Group was also suspended at 7p awaiting news of a substantial acquisition.

GILT-EDGED: A positive performance by US treasury Bonds enabled prices in London to end on a firm note. The move upwards by the T-bonds was prompted by the weaker than expected purchasing managers' report.

In the futures pit, the September series of the Long Gilt finished 1/2 p better at 107 1/2 p. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose 1/2 p to 108 1/2 p, while in shorts, Treasury 7 per cent 2001 advanced 1/2 p to 108 1/2 p.

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks posted solid gains at midday after economic reports fuelled market hopes that the Federal Reserve would decide against increasing interest rates at its next meeting. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 25.90 points to 5,554.81.

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up to 10 per cent of its shares. The shares rose 20p to 707p.

Northern Ireland Electricity continued to lose ground in the wake of publication of the industry regulator's pricing proposals, with the price falling 4p to 349p.

Kharafi, the Kuwait building company, has increased its stake in Costain, the troubled construction group, with the purchase of an extra 11.37 million shares, or 5.5 per cent, taking its total stake to 24.6 per cent. Kharafi opposed Costain's £74 million rescue package that will see existing shareholders significantly diluted. Under the terms of the package, intra, the Malaysian group, would stump up £41.5 million in return for 40 per cent of Costain. In spite of the objections from Kharafi, the proposals were supported by the bulk of Costain's shareholders. Costain fell 2p to 64p.

Cantors rose a further 5p to 203p after returning from suspension earlier this week, after shareholder approval for the merger with Harveys. The new company is to be named H&C Furnishings.

Trafalgar stood out with a jump of 24p, to 353p after signing a deal to supply its traffic monitoring system to Vauxhall. This is the first contract to supply a motor manufacturer direct.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5554.81 (+25.90)
S&P Composite 415.15 (+5.20)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20984.83 (+202.00)
Hang Seng 10789.87 (+108.45)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 540.07 (+4.34)
AEX 2191.2 (+10.9)

Sydney:
Frankfurt:
DAX 2494.46 (+21.11)

Singapore:
Straits 2116.41 (+7.85)

Brussels:
General 9376.62 (+65.58)
CAC-40 2009.40 (+11.78)

Zurich:
SIX 4000.00 (+10.00)

London:
FT 100 2748.2 (+29.4)
FT 100 2734.4 (+31.2)
FTSE Mid 250 4243.0 (+12.4)
FTSE-A 250 1860.6 (+13.5)
FTSE-Euro 100 1607.16 (+10.23)
FT A-All-Share 1848.04 (+12.68)
FT Non Financials 1553.01 (+10.81)
FT Fixed Interest 112.89 (+0.07)
FT Govt Secs 93.07 (+0.30)
Baltic Dry 3065
SEAD Volume 635,950
USM (Dassault) 202.22 (+0.44)
US\$ 1.5584 (+0.0019)
German Mark 2.2946 (+0.0039)
Netherlands 4.67 (+0.11)
Bank of England official call rate 5.25
EUCU 1.2062
ESPR 153.0 Jun 12 (19 Jun 1997) 100
RPIX 152.6 Jun 12 (19 Jun 1997) 100

RECENT ISSUES

AND International 72 - 5
Allzyme 45
Ally Carpets 230 + 1
Aldens WMS 230
BATM Adv Cms 128
British Energy (101) + 1
Digital Annms 85
Drings of Bath 4
Electronic Relg 148
Fayrewood 48
HIT Entertainment (163) 94
Har Pin 64
Horse Govt (100) C 97
Life Numbers 15
Life Numbers Wts 6
Lottery Wts 14
NECA 17 - 1
Network Tech 140
Pace Micro (172) 175
Plasma 173 + 1
Random Foods Wts 173
Quintain Ests & Dev 114
Robert Walters 115 + 1
Selector 68
Therap Antibodies 472 - 5
UNO 165
West 175 Enter 120
Xavier Computer 11

RIGHTS ISSUES

Inspires Pl n/p (100) 14
Lorien n/p (250) 10
Old English n/p (100) 16
Sema Cp n/p (595) 124
Syndicate Cap n/p (110) 14
Tullow Oil n/p (180) 6 - 2

MAJOR CHANGES

RISKS:
Admiral 320p (+20p)
Trealt 215p (+10p)
Nati Express 482p (+20p)
Corbates 267p (+10p)
Ryl Bt Scot 481p (+12p)
FALLS:
Azian 843p (-24p)
Caledonia 728p (-17p)
Premier Farnell 608p (-18p)
Dyson (J&J) 203p (-10p)
Closing Prices Page 27

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso 1.5580/1.5648
Australia dollar 2.0150/2.0179
Belgium franc 20.36/20.37
Canada dollar 0.6945/0.6965
Denmark 5.6835/5.6899
France 6.5545/6.5625
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Indonesia 1512.1/1513.2
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Portugal 200.48/200.52
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MORAG PRESTON

Readers can send letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times by fax. The number is 0171-782 5112.



Outdoor courses are focus

Certainly, Rockwater, the Aberdeen engineering company whose executives shivered and quivered in front of the cameras on *Cutting Edge* three years ago on a rigorous

Peter Wynn went on an Astridge course when he began to head the regional waste business for Yorkshire Environmental, of Rotherham, "because my boss thought that taking on this new role needed a different leadership style. I'm not particularly fit - I'm overweight - but it was all right because I never had to go more than three or four feet off the ground, and it was about problem-solving more than physical prowess."

Catalyst has an activity called "Cubed" which Professor Cooper would recommend to entrepreneurial types. It involves having to put together a puzzle blindfolded, with team members giving instructions on musical instruments. He said: "It would be a great change for them to be told what to do by someone else, and to do something slow and painstaking like putting together a puzzle."

Scholars and bankers will appreciate a work that is rich in history and statistics. In 1859, William Kerwick, of Jardine Matheson, became the first British trader to settle in Yokohama, one of the first two treaty ports. Britain pioneered Japan's first telegraph lines and by 1880 half of Japan's foreign trade was being handled by British trading houses. Loyalties shifted to the US in

with a zip fastener factory in Runcorn. Sony and Panasonic set up plants in Wales, and Hitachi opened a factory in the North East.

The car industry followed: Nissan in Sunderland; Toyota in Derby; and later Honda. By the mid-1990s, the UK played host to more than 1,000 Japanese companies providing jobs for 80,000 people.

Sir Paul explores the wave of property in-

The many of the early London arrivals settled in Hendon and Finchley, attracted by a Japanese school. The area became known as "Little Tokyo". Snod Croynod was another favourite area. It is recorded that Nomura's salesmen were at first given only £100 a month towards living expenses. Memories of the Second World War lingered, and the newcomers went out of their way to mend fences. They placed great store by the value of research documents, as a UK fund manager discovered during a trip to Tokyo.

Two employees of Yamaichi Securities turned

by fax. The number is
0171 782 5112

ment plans, I decided not to invest. Had I decided other-

Southcote Road,
Reading, Berkshire.

... ..

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICES

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Equities extend their gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Law Report August 2 1996 Court of Appeal

Lender must prove particular loss for negligently given information

Bristol and West Building Society v Mothew (trading as Stapley & Co)

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Oton
Judgment July 24

Where a lender sued the borrower who acted for both the borrower and the lender for negligently having given incorrect information, the lender had to prove that it would not have made the mortgage if it had known the true facts; but it was required to establish what it had lost as a result of the existence of a second charge.

The Court of Appeal held in a reserved judgment in allowing an appeal brought by the defendant solicitor, Anthony Paul Mothew, against the decision of Mr Justice Chadwick on July 27, 1995 affirming for different reasons the decision of a district judge giving summary judgment to the plaintiff, Bristol and West Building Society for £50,000 less the sums received by the building society on the sale of the property in question.

The case was remitted for assessment of damages.

Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Glenn Campbell for the defendant; Mr Nicholas Patten, QC and Mr Timothy Higginson for the building society.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the appeal raised important questions of principle in relation to a claim by a lender to recover from the borrower who was acting for both the borrower and the lender the loss arising from the borrower's subsequent default.

The collapse in the property market which accompanied the

recession at the beginning of the present decade caused mortgage lenders to suffer serious losses. Unable to recover their advances from the borrowers or by the enforcement of their security they sought to recover them from the valuers or solicitors on whose valuations or advice they had relied.

The defendant solicitor acted for Mr and Mrs Towers in the purchase of a property in Romford for £73,000 in August 1988. In accordance with the usual practice he also acted for the building society to which the purchasers had applied for an advance of £50,000 in order to finance the purchase.

The purchasers also arranged to transfer a small part of the mortgage on their existing property with Barclays Bank to be transferred to the new property by way of a second charge. The defendant was informed of the arrangements and gave an undertaking to hold the title deeds pending registration.

Unfortunately he either failed to appreciate that, although they related to old borrowing, they were a matter which he was required to report to the building society, or he had forgotten or overlooked them when he made his report.

The purchasers defaulted after making only small repayments and the building society enforced its security. The property was sold in February 1991 and realised a price of £100,000, less £33,000. The building society claimed to recover the whole of its net loss on the transaction from the defendant, alleging breach of contract, negligence and breach of trust. The first two were admitted but the third denied.

It was the defendant's case that the building society would not have been concerned by the purchaser's proposal to grant a second charge to the bank if it had been disclosed to it in August 1988; that it would still have proceeded with the transaction; and that it would have suffered precisely the same loss in that event.

It was common ground in the court below that no damages would be recoverable at common law for breach of contract or tort unless the building society could show that it would not have proceeded with the transaction if it had been informed of the facts.

The building society, however, submitted that the position was different in equity, in that the defendant had committed a breach of trust or fiduciary duty, and submitted that common law principles of causation and remoteness of damage had no application in such cases so that it was not necessary for the building society to show that it would not have proceeded with the transaction if it had been informed of the facts.

The district judge accepted those arguments and that was affirmed by the judge.

In the Court of Appeal when the case was first argued the critical question appeared to be whether the defendant was guilty of a breach of trust or fiduciary duty and if so whether the building society needed to prove that it would not still have proceeded with the transaction if it had been told of the facts.

However, after the case had been reserved, the building society informed their Lordships that it wished to resile from its con-

cession. Relying on the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Downs v Chappell* (1996) 3 All ER 344 the building society submitted that it was entitled to recover the whole of its net loss on the transaction by way of damages for negligence at common law without having to establish that it would not have proceeded with the transaction if it had been informed of the facts.

If correct, it submitted, that would be determinative of the case, and it would not be necessary for the building society to rely on any breach of trust or fiduciary duty.

The essential question was whether the building society was entitled to judgment for the sum claimed, and not merely for damages to be assessed. In respect of its common law claim, if so, then the building society did not need to establish that the defendant was guilty of a breach of trust or fiduciary duty.

That question depended upon an alleged difference between the tests of causation and remoteness of damage at common law and in equity. In a case of the present kind, however, two different questions of causation were involved and it was necessary to distinguish between them.

Where a plaintiff claimed that he had suffered loss by entering into a transaction as a result of negligent advice or information provided by the defendant, the first question was whether the plaintiff could establish that the defendant's negligence caused him to enter into the transaction.

If he could not, his claim failed. But even if he could, it was not enough to show that the transaction caused him loss. He still had to show what, if any,

part of his loss was attributable to the defendant's negligence.

That was usually treated as a question of the measure of damages rather than causation, and for convenience his Lordship would so treat it, but it had to be acknowledged that it involved questions of causation.

In *Downs v Chappell* the relevant question was simply whether the plaintiffs had entered into the contract in reliance upon the figures contained in an accountants' letter.

The judge had answered that question in the affirmative: the plaintiffs would not have entered into the contract if they had not been provided with the letter. The causal relationship between the accountants' negligence and the plaintiffs' purchase was established.

In the present case the building society's claim was not for misrepresentation.

Accordingly, questions of inducement and materiality were not relevant. Its claim lay in negligence, and the relevant concept was reliance. In considering the issue of causation in an action for negligence brought by a client against his solicitor it appeared from *Downs v Chappell* that it was necessary to distinguish between two different kinds of cases.

Where a client sued his solicitor for having negligently failed to give him proper advice, he had to show what advice should have been given and on a balance of probabilities that if such advice had been given he would not have entered into the relevant transaction or would not have entered into it on terms that he did.

Where, however, a client sued his solicitor for having negligently

given him incorrect advice or for having negligently given him incorrect information, the position appeared to be different.

In such a case it was sufficient for the plaintiff to prove that he relied on the advice or information, that is, that he would not have acted as he did if he had not been given such advice or information.

It was not necessary for him to prove that he would not have acted as he did if he had been given the proper advice or the correct information. That was the position in *Downs v Chappell*.

In the present case the building society made complaints of both kinds. In his Lordship's judgment, they were bound by *Downs v Chappell* to hold that the necessary causal link between the defendant's negligence and the mortgage advance was proved.

Damages remained to be assessed. The building society would not have to prove that it would not have made the mortgage advance if it had known the true facts but it would be required to establish what it had lost as a result of the existence of the second charge and the purchasers' indebtedness to the bank. It could maintain the money advanced to it by the building society as a result of the breach of fiduciary duty, and then to consider the question of breach of trust.

Breach of fiduciary duty

If the defendant had been acting for the building society alone, his admitted negligence would not have exposed him to a charge of breach of fiduciary duty. Counsel for the building society accepted as much, but insisted that the fact that he also acted for the purchasers made all the difference.

His Lordship found that that argument ran into difficulties. The defendant was never in breach of the conflict rule. It was not alleged that he acted in bad faith or that he deliberately withheld information from the building society. He was not alleged to have acted in breach of his duty to the purchasers required him to do so.

Thus the judge's finding that the defendant was in breach of fiduciary duty could not be supported. It followed that it could not be sustained as a ground for holding the defendant to be in breach of a constructive trust of the mortgage money.

Breach of trust

In the Court of Appeal the building society put forward the argument that the defendant's instructions expressly required him to report the arrangements in question "to the society prior to completion". It was submitted that it made a condition of the defendant's authority to complete that he had complied with his obligation. Therefore he had no authority to complete.

The defendant's authority to apply the mortgage money in the completion of the purchase was not conditional on his having first complied with his contractual obligations to the building society. It was not vitiated by the misrepresentations for which he was responsible but of which he was unaware, and was effective to prevent his payment being a breach of trust.

The appeal would therefore be allowed and the money judgments set aside. The judgments for damages to be assessed for breach of contract and negligence would remain undisturbed, but it did not follow that the building society would establish any recoverable loss.

Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Millett delivered concurring judgments. Lord Justice Oton, who was absent from the court, delivered a dissenting judgment. He considered that the defendant's negligence was a breach of trust or fiduciary duty, and that the building society was entitled to recover the whole of its net loss on the transaction. He considered that the defendant's negligence was a breach of trust or fiduciary duty, and that the building society was entitled to recover the whole of its net loss on the transaction.

Dominant motive relevant factor

Regina v Governor of Belmarsh Prison and Another, Ex parte Dunalyici

Before Lord Justice Henry and Mrs Justice Ewbank
Judgment July 4

In determining whether or not extradition offences charged were of a political character so as to preclude extradition under section 6(1)(a) of the Extradition Act 1989, regard was to be had to the motives behind the offences and where those were mixed the dominant motive should be the determinant factor.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an application by Mr Fayal Dunalyici for a writ of habeas corpus directed to the Governor of Belmarsh Prison to bring up and quash a committal order made by Mr R. D. Barle, Metropolitan Magistrate, sitting at Bow Street, dated July 25, 1995 pending the signing of an extradition order requested by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr Michael Mansfield, QC and Mr Mark G. Cullen for the applicant; Mr James Lewis for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY, giving the judgment of the court, said that the applicant, a prominent Kurd who had been granted political asylum in Germany, had been detained while on visit to England in October 1994 and served with a notice of intended deportation.

The German Government requested his extradition on the basis that, as a leading member of a militant Turkish Kurd movement, he had organised a series of attacks on Turkish property in Germany.

The court accepted that the attacks had a threefold motive: to carry on the war with Turkey by attacks on Turkish institutions; to draw attention to the Kurdish cause and to force the German government to change its policy of support for Turkey.

Rejecting the argument that it was sufficient to show that a genuine and significant purpose of the offence was to change the policy of the requesting state, his Lordship said that it was clear by evidence to be a green although it was not deemed to be a green under the Act as appropriate

nature the only purpose in committing the offence had to be directed against the requesting state.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that the doctrine of incidence in *T v Secretary of State for the Home Department* (The Times May 23, 1996) [1996] 2 WLR 760, contemplating a mixed motive situation, concluded that the dominant motive determined the political nature of the offence.

Here the court was satisfied that the dominant motive behind the attacks was directed against the

Turkish government and not the requesting German government so that they were not political offences within section 6(1)(a) of the 1989 Act.

Not in requesting extradition, was there evidence that the German government was acting in bad faith or that the applicant would be prejudiced by reason of his political opinions from having a fair trial. Accordingly the application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Winstanley-Burgess, Islington; Director of Public Prosecutions.

Green rights not lost

Regina v Suffolk County Council, Ex parte Speed and Another

A failure to register a town green as common land under section 12(a) of the Commons Registration Act 1965 did not have the effect of extinguishing the customary rights over the land. Such land could subsequently still be registered as common land although it was not deemed to be a green under the Act as appropriate

registered land was.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Butler-Stoss, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Schiemann) so held on July 11 when dismissing, on other grounds, an appeal by David and Colin Steel against a decision of Mr Justice Ginn with which he dismissed an application for a writ of mandamus to compel Suffolk County Council to register land known as the People's Park, Sudbury as a town green.

Publican's domestic rent not deductible

McLaren v Mumford (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Rimer
Judgment July 19

Expenditure by a publican on rent for living accommodation that he was required to occupy as a term of his tenancy agreement with the brewery was not deductible in computing his profits chargeable to tax.

By virtue of section 74 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 the expenditure was not allowable as a deduction as it was not made wholly and exclusively for the purposes of the publican's business.

Mr Justice Rimer so held in the Chancery Division when dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Alexander W. McLaren, from a determination by Hackney general commissioners upholding assessments to Schedule D income tax in respect of his profits for his trade as a publican for the years from 1992 to 1994.

Mr Robert Grierson for the taxpayer; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

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Mr Robert Grierson for the taxpayer; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

hence was not wholly allowable as a deduction in computing his Case I profits. They directed an adjustment to be made to reflect a disallowance of one-sixth of the expenditure.

The taxpayer's argument was that as the tenancy agreement made his occupation of the premises compulsory, to disallow even one-sixth of his expenditure was unfair. He should, he said, have been allowed the whole of it. He placed heavy reliance on the central finding by the commissioners that the only conscious motive in his mind when he entered into the agreement was to provide himself with a trade to earn his living.

Thus, he argued, he was not seeking any collateral benefit for himself. He already had his own house and had to use the residential accommodation in the premises because the tenancy agreement obliged him to do so.

Mr Grierson submitted that the question raised by the appeal had been conclusively decided in the taxpayer's favour by the House of Lords in *Russell v Town and County Bank Ltd* (1988) 13 App Cas 418.

Mr Brennan, relying on *Mason v Tison* ([1980] STC 284) and *Mellish v Drummond* ([1983] 2 AC 80), submitted that the expenditure served a dual purpose, both private and business.

The private element of the taxpayer's expenditure, he said, was not incurred for the purpose of earning the receipts of his business, but served the non-business purpose of satisfying his ordinary human needs. It was thereby disqualified from being deducted, and that was so regardless of the taxpayer's motive when he signed the agreement or the fact that the tenancy agreement obliged him to occupy the premises.

The decision in *Russell* was of no assistance in the context of the appeal: the issue with which that case was concerned was of an entirely different nature. Mr Brennan's submissions were to be accepted.

Solicitors: A. J. Bolton & Co. Solicitors of Inland Revenue.

Correction

In *R v Burston* (The Times July 30) leading counsel for the appellant was Mr Peter Feinberg, QC.

European Law Report

Economic considerations irrelevant when designating wild bird protection areas

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Port of Sheerness Ltd, interveners

Case C-41/95

Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges D. A. O. Edwards, J.-P. Pissicchet, G. Hirsch, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Molitinho de Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, J. L. Murray, P. Jann and M. Wathelet
Advocate General N. Fennelly
(Opinion March 21)
Judgment July 11

The Secretary of State for the Environment was not entitled to take account of economic requirements when designating a special protection area for wild birds and defining its boundaries.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held when giving a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty on questions referred by the House of Lords, by order of February 9, 1995, on the interpretation of provisions of Council Directive 79/409/EEC of April 2, 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ 1979 L103 p1).

The Medway Estuary and Marshes, an area of wetland of international importance, were used by wildfowl and waterfowl as a breeding and wintering area and a staging post during spring and autumn migration, and supported breeding populations of the avocet and the little tern, which were listed in annex I to the birds directive.

Lappel Bank, an area of intertidal mudflat adjoining the Port of Sheerness and lying geographically within the bounds of the Medway Estuary and Marshes, shared several of the important ornithological qualities of the area as a whole and was an important component of the overall estuarine ecosystem.

The Port of Sheerness, the fifth largest port in the United Kingdom for cargo and freight handling, was a flourishing commercial undertaking and a significant employer in an area with a serious unemployment problem. The port planned extended facilities for car storage and other purposes in order better to compete with continental ports offering similar facilities.

Lappel Bank was the only area into which the port could realistically envisage expanding.

In 1993 the secretary of state decided to designate the Medway Estuary and Marshes as a special protection area, but to exclude Lappel Bank from that area on the ground that its contribution to the expansion by the port into the area of Lappel Bank would make to the

local and national economy outweighed its nature conservation value.

In the course of proceedings in which it was sought to quash the decision on the ground that, by virtue of the birds directive, the secretary of state was not entitled to have regard to economic considerations when classifying a special protection area, the House of Lords referred three questions to the Court of Justice.

Article 1 of the birds directive provides: "This directive relates to the conservation of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory of the member states..."

Article 2 provides: "Member states shall take the requisite measures to maintain the population of the species referred to in article 1 at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements..."

Article 3 provides: "(1) In the light of the requirements referred to in article 1, member states shall take the requisite measures to preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in article 1.

"(2) The preservation... of... habitats shall include primarily the following measures: (a) creation of protected areas...

Article 4 provides: "(1) The species mentioned in annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. In this connection, account shall be taken of various criteria... Member states shall classify in particular the most suitable territories... as special protection areas...

"(2) Member states shall take similar measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in annex I. To this end, member states shall pay particular attention to the protection of... wetlands of international importance..."

"(3) In respect of the protection areas referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) above, member states shall take appropriate steps to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats..."

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

"The first question was whether a member state was authorised to take account of the economic requirements mentioned in article 2 of the birds directive when designating a special protection area and defining its boundaries."

Article 3 of the directive imposed obligations of a general character, namely, to ensure a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the birds referred to in the directive, while article 4 contained specific obligations with regard to the species of birds listed in annex I and the migratory species not listed in that annex.

According to the United Kingdom Government and the Port of Sheerness Ltd, article 4 could not be considered in isolation from article 3.

They argued that article 4 provided, in relation to certain species of particular interest, for the specific application of the general obligation imposed by article 3, and that since the latter provision allowed account to be taken of economic requirements, the same should apply to article 4(1) and (2).

That argument could not be upheld.

Article 4 laid down a protection regime which was specifically targeted and confined both to the species listed in annex I and to migratory species, an approach justified by the fact that they were, respectively, the most endangered species and the species constituting a common heritage of the Community.

While article 3 provided for account to be taken of the requirements mentioned in article 2 for the implementation of general conservation measures, including the creation of protection areas, article 4 made no such reference for the implementation of special conservation measures, in particular the creation of special protection areas.

Consequently, having regard to the aim of special protection pursued by article 4 and the fact that, according to settled case law, article 2 did not constitute an autonomous derogation from the general system of protection established by the directive, it must be held that *Santonia Marshes*, paragraphs 17 and 18 that the ecological requirements laid down by the former provision did not have to be balanced against the interests listed in the latter, in particular economic requirements.

It was the criteria laid down in article 4(1) and (2) which were to guide the member states in designating and defining the boundaries of special protection areas, and it was clear from *Santonia Marshes*, paragraphs 26 and 27, that those criteria were of a general nature.

The second question was whether article 4(1) or (2) allowed a member state, when designating a special protection area and defining its boundaries, to take account of economic requirements as constituting a general interest superior to that represented by the ecological objective of the directive.

It was also clear from *Santonia Marshes*, paragraph 19, that, in the context of article 4 considered as a whole, economic requirements could not in any view, correspond to a general interest superior to that represented by the ecological objective of the directive.

The third question was whether article 4(1) or (2) meant that a member state could, when designating a special protection area and defining its boundaries, take account of economic requirements to the extent that they reflected imperative reasons of overriding public interest of the kind referred to in article 64 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of May 21, 1992 on the conservation of the natural habitats of wild fauna and flora (OJ 1992 L200 p7).

The birds directive was to be implemented in the United Kingdom by June 1994.

Article 7 of that directive provided that the obligations under article 6(2) (3) and (4) of it were to replace any obligations arising under the first sentence of article 4(1) of the birds directive in respect of areas classified pursuant to article 4(1) or similarly recognised under article 4(2) of that directive.

Article 6 of the birds directive provided: "(2) Member states shall take appropriate steps to avoid, in the special areas of conservation, the deterioration of natural habitats..."

"(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon... shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives..."

"(4) If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature..."

Thus, the imperative reasons of overriding public interest which could justify a derogation from the obligations under article 6(2) of the birds directive, by expressly including therein reasons of a social or economic nature.

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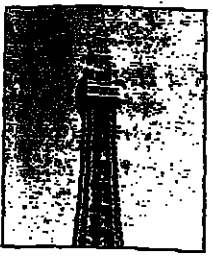
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Thus, the imperative



■ SNAPSHOT

The final day of our series on top tourist attractions finds that Blackpool Tower sure isn't what it used to be



■ THEATRE

Surprising clash of cultures: a Romanian troupe brings *Murder in the Cathedral* to London

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ PROM

John Pickard's impressive new work *The Flight of Icarus* has its first London performance



■ JAZZ

Piano man Mose Allison shows why he is still the world's hippest 'Certified Senior Citizen'

Michael Henderson takes a daytrip to the 'Versailles of working-class England' - Blackpool Tower

Strand that time forgot

You reach it through a small aquarium which stocks a few unremarkable species of fish, and leave it by a noisy entertainment parlour where bored stallholders may try to sell you a fluffy bear. But nobody goes there to buy an ursine toy, or to gawp at something with fins. In their thousands they come to Blackpool still, and most of them go up the Tower.

To be absolutely precise, they visit something called Tower World, which is how "Britain's greatest seaside attraction" presents itself. That is Blackpool all over, talking itself up like a boastful schoolboy, but it happens to be a fact. The tower, for 102 years the tolerant guardian of a naughty town, is one of Britain's top ten tourist attractions.

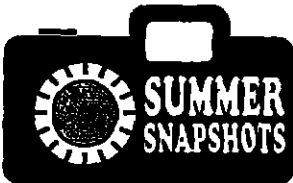
Take a rather rickety lift, scramble up to the viewing gallery, and the Irish Sea is under one nostril, the Winter Gardens under the other. According to the tower's brochure, this experience is the highlight of any Blackpool holiday, and the claim may not be far off. At least up there the holidaymaker is 518ft 9in above the dowdy streets.

It is an unlovely town. The fairest minds must concede that. But the fairest minds do not go there, favouring instead Umbria and the Dordogne, where towers look different. Mucky old Blackpool can only parade what Philip Larkin, lamenting the passing of common civic values, called "a cast of crooks and tarts". It must be the only town in the world where pubs employ bouncers on their doors at lunchtime.

If every kingdom needs a palace, then the tower is the Versailles of working-class England, a Sans-Souci of

proletarian tat. So why do people keep coming? They do not come as they used to, in the 1930s and 1940s, when Frank Randle was the king of the piers and the ties of industrial urban life were more binding. But the fact that they come at all is a social phenomenon.

A stroll along the Golden Mile, where stars of *Coronation Street* hang from every lamppost, reveals a vista of unremitting grimness. This is where people come to drink in the Merrie England bar, and croon along in Nellie Dean's.



They can hop the night away in the "world famous" Palace nightclub (in Manhattan, apparently, they talk of little else) or feast in one of the seafood nosheries where you get not only chips with your Fleetwood haddock but also "garnish", a real treat.

Blackpool is a simulacrum of an English life that no longer exists. Yates's Wine Lodge, near the north shore, used to be the only bar in England that served champagne from the tap. Now it is much like any other bar in this town, designed to cater for as many young people as possible.

It was not always like this. When the tower was built in 1894, at a cost of £45,000, it was in response to M Eiffel's construction in Paris. To the fathers of northern towns, these buildings symbolised civic pride: witness the magnificent town halls of Rochdale and Bolton. A hundred

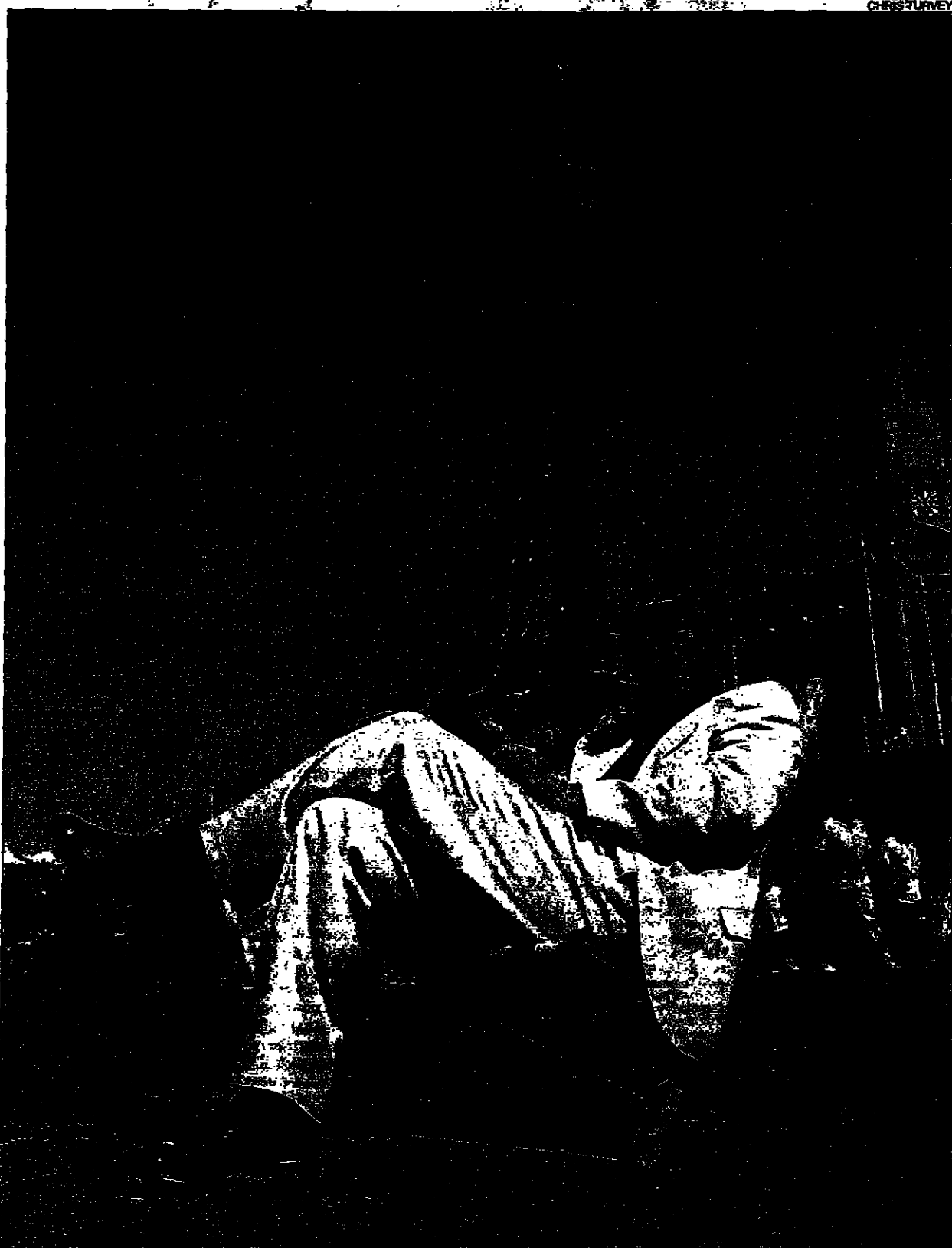
years on, with unremittingly ugly shops and restaurants beneath it, the tower highlights civic indifference. Five miles down the road, Lytham St Anne's maintains its Edwardian grace.

Caught in this clash of styles, Blackpool has become increasingly surreal. Amid all the junk, you can spot two elderly couples on the floor of the Tower Ballroom, dancing gently to an organist piping the overture to *Die Fledermaus*. This little scene belongs to a more innocent world, when Reginald ("The Organist Entertains") Dixon would rise with the famous Wuritzer for the benefit of hundreds of dancers on the same floor.

Peter Chelsom, the filmmaker, grew up in the town and caught something of this surrealism in his 1995 movie *Funny Bones*. The best moment showed an impresario auditioning dozens of bizarre turns. Such goings-on would not have been out of place in the films of another seaside, Fellini.

Blackpool has never aspired to class. It always been proud of its vulgarity. The problem is, its vulgarity is no longer funny. Where a great comedian such as Ken Dodd once filled theatres, there are now only third-raters. On the streets you do not find many people smiling. Like all places where "having fun" is compulsory, the atmosphere is joyless.

Appearing on the South Pier this summer is "Chubby" Brown, and the theatre advises people to stay away if they are easily offended. It is a better joke than any Brown could tell. Nobody who is easily offended is ever going to visit Blackpool, not even to scale that huge Edwardian vinegar pot.



Wish I wasn't here: once-flourishing Blackpool is now "a simulacrum of an English life which no longer exists"

Serving a slice of the blues

THE world's hippest Certified Senior Citizen, Mose Allison, has been content to make his way as a cult artist for the best part of 40 years. His records, a unique melange of blues, disorienting piano chords and mordant satire, have never sold by the lorry-load. But discerning musicians have always sought him out.

Pete Townshend, Ray Davies and Bonnie Raitt have all declared their admiration for him. Next month, on September 23, Van Morrison will go a step further when he releases an entire album of Allison tunes, with the white-bearded composer making a guest appearance on a couple of tracks.

In the meantime Allison is settling into a residency at the newly renamed Pizza Express Jazz Club in Soho. With the new name comes a new look, the old smoky basement ex-

Mose Allison Pizza Express

panded to at least twice the size and given a tasteful facelift.

The surroundings may be glossier but Allison's performance, prefaced by another of his dissonant instrumental set-pieces, remained as uncompromising as ever.

Although there is always ample humour on display — in the sardonic twists of *I Don't Want Much* or the marital infidelities of John D. Loudermilk's *You Call It Juggin' (I Call It Runnin' Around)* — his sets are less a series of belly laughs than a dispassionate rummage around America's bars and suburbs.

Allison reminds me of a musical Raymond Carver, evoking the eccentricities of life in the slow lane through a handful of carefully sculpted phrases. His gruff, understated vocal style — closer to back-porch conversation than singing — enhances the storytelling mood.

With so much chatter emanating from the back of the room, some of the fine detail went astray: Allison's lyrics demand close attention. His two British partners — bassist Roy Babbington and percussionist Paul Clarvis — coped manfully with the idiosyncratic shuffle rhythms of the arrangements.

Clarvis had a particularly demanding role, since Allison frowns on the use of a backbeat and all the high-hat ticks that make a drummer's life easier.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE

CLIVE DAVIS

Unholy clash of symbols for a political martyr

In recent years the Romanian theatre has celebrated its country's liberation from the Ceausescu by putting on *Richard III*, *Macbeth* and Jarry's satire on power run amok, *Ubu Roi*. But an Aeschylean tragedy by a high-Anglican poet about the power of a 12th-century martyrdom to redeem and refresh a derelict Church? That, weirdly, is what Art-Inter Odeon has brought from Bucharest to Islington. On the face of it, *Murder in the*

Cathedral has as much resonance in Eastern Europe as *The Vicar of Dibley* would have in Tichan.

But wait. T.S. Eliot wrote the piece mid-way through the Decade of the Dictators, intending it as propaganda for the spirit at a time when plenty of shrill, combative voices were crusading for fascism, communism and other materialist causes. When one of Thomas à Becket's murderers asks us to applaud him for helping to achieve "a just

Murder in the Cathedral Almeida, NI

subordination of the pretensions of the Church to the welfare of the State", Eliot may have had in mind Hitler's interference in ecclesiastical affairs in Germany. Certainly, he said that he wanted "to bring home to the audience the

contemporary relevance of the situation".

Since I am about as fluent in Romanian as I am in Bulgarian, I cannot be wholly sure how Mihai Maniutiu and his company have responded to Eliot's injunction. But it is clear that they are less interested in the theological questions raised by martyrdom — can a man empty himself of human desire and resign himself wholly to the divine will? — than in its political implications. For them, Becket is to be revered because he resisted the pressures of the powerful and managed to maintain integrity to the end.

These Romanians do not give us all of Eliot, then, but they give us some of him; and in the refreshingly fierce, marvellously startling style we have come to expect of them. Eliot's chorus consists of "women of Canterbury" who have become dull, humdrum and spiritually lazy in the absence abroad of their archbishop. Here they are bundles of black rags and blue netting who look as if they are on the

run from a massacre. And round the neck of their crocheted, wild-eyed leader are chains, put there by a demonic figure in black who prowls the stage looking and sometimes acting rather like a gloating Jack the Ripper.

The virtual omnipresence of these two — the one seeking succour from Marcel Iures's Becket, the other lurking him towards destruction — would have surprised Eliot. All the same, the play follows its usual course, though with obvious verbal cuts and visual twists. Becket's tempers mostly come in pairs, and look either like Persian dancers or

Beirut bohemians superciliously fanning themselves with their berets. Pools of blood appear on the stage. The chorus dons eastern masks and plays exotic pipes, skiffles and drums. Before jerking awake and killing Becket, the leather-clad knights fall prone to the ground and are covered in sand by the chorus.

Why? Coming without my symbolism phrase-book, I missed some of the production's ramifications. But did that matter when there were moments that made the RSC's recent revival of the play seem dreadfully bland? Above all, there was Iures, his weather-

beaten, knobby face and rough-woolled gown creating a wonderfully unpretentious impression, his sobs and diffident ties bringing out something that English revivals usually overlook: the fear, the vulnerability and the human weakness of Becket the martyr. That the corpse of such a man should end up sending even Jack the Ripper scuttling for the exit says much about both recent Romanian history and, yes, the resilience of *Murder in the Cathedral* in the 1990s.



As the Romanians do: Art-Inter Odeon's Dorin Andone, Marcel Iures, Ionel Mihailescu

Cleared for take-off into the sun

WIDELY regarded as one of BBC National Orchestra of Wales's most successful commissions, John Pickard's *The Flight of Icarus* received its first London performance at the Proms on Wednesday night, amply fulfilling its promise. It is in a single movement, and scored for a large orchestra which makes its presence felt from the opening bars. With strings and wind in whirlwind motion, and frenzied tuckets on three trumpets, the introductory section suggests, in the composer's words, the "ascent from the labyrinth" (ie, the aeronautical escape of Daedalus and his son Icarus from King Minos). This is not simplistic scene-painting, however, and if the middle section vividly evokes the exhilaration of flight, it also projects a sense of triumph over natural laws, of the high idealism of human endeavour. Pride comes before a fall, though, and

BBC NOW/Wigglesworth Albert Hall/Radio 3

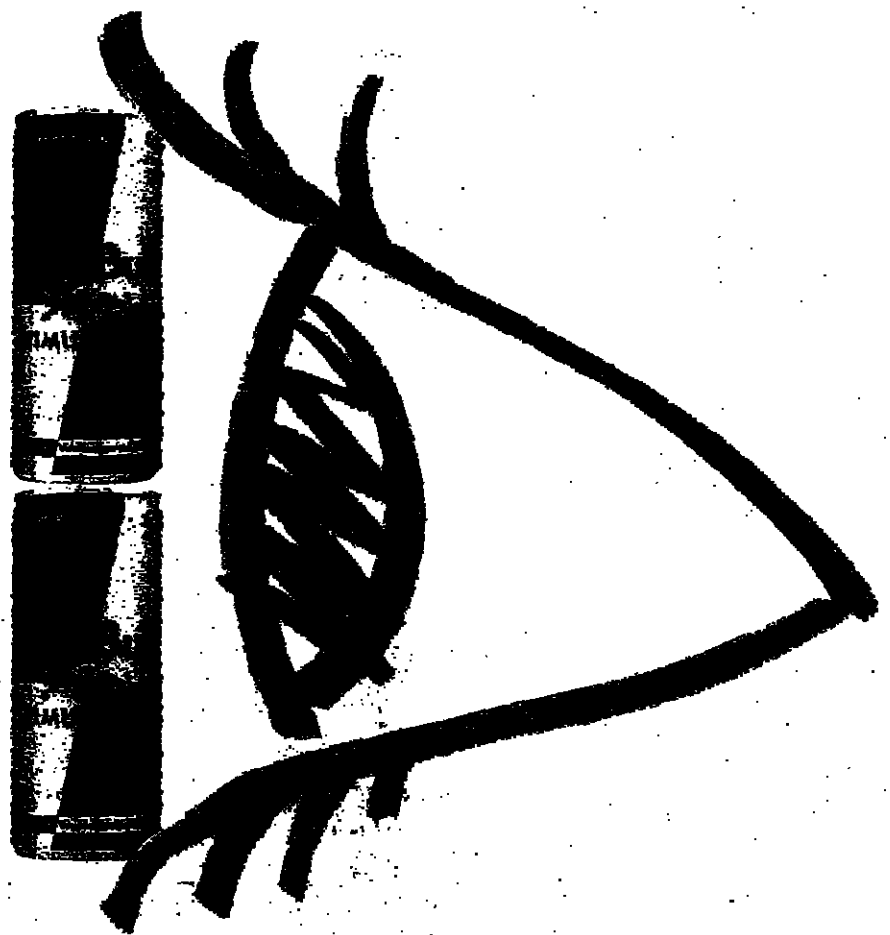
suddenly catastrophe looms out of a clear blue sky. Icarus falls hubristically to his death, and his father flies on into the setting sun — an image that Pickard recreates with his sonorous spaced brass and full-textured strings. Pickard's score remains airborne over its 20-minute span rather more proficiently than Icarus, leading the ear and imagination with impressive resourcefulness.

A high-risk strategy of another kind was adopted by Steven Isserlis in Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No 1. His wispy tone and minimal vibrato in the

slow movement had an appropriately eerie quality, but it played havoc with conventional norms of intonation. His third-movement cadenza continued in musing mode, until the finale restored the vehemence of the opening movement.

A streak of Slavic melancholy lingered in Rachmaninov's Symphony No 2. This was a beautifully executed performance by the orchestra, playing more confidently than ever under its new music director, Mark Wigglesworth. I admired the control of his Rachmaninov, the rise and fall of tension, the refusal to indulge in sentimentality. But I could have done with more raw passion, perhaps even a touch of vulgarity. Still, this was a commendably thoughtful, and often affecting, attempt at a far from straightforward score.

BARRY MILLINGTON



CAUTION: DO NOT DRINK WHEN YOU WANT TO SLEEP



POP 3

Even after 18 years in the business, OMD curator Andy McCluskey still gets worked up about his music



POP 4

Paul Weller is just one of the many artists heading for the great outdoors to make music this summer

THE TIMES ARTS



JAZZ

Saxophonist David Sanchez moves gracefully between two scenes on his fine new release, *Street Scenes*



MONDAY

Scottish test: do Oasis have what it takes to bring 40,000 punters to Balloch Country Park?

Paul Sexton finds the man from OMD in reflective mood as he awaits the release of his new album

Will you still need me when I'm 38?

Several people would catch the sharp end of Andy McCluskey's tongue if he ever got to meet them. One of them is himself as a sulky but successful youth.

As the curator of OMD, originally *Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark*, McCluskey is pondering the hit-laden history of the band which has completely filled the past 18 years of his life. And the memory of the lanky, earnest young man who started gyrating on national television in 1980 is not comfortable.

"I was such a self-righteous little git when I was 20. I could slap myself around," he says. He would tell his younger self: "Loosen up Andy, enjoy it. This is the first time you're on *Top of the Pops*, the first time you're in the *Top Ten*."

And why did he behave so seriously back then? "We were so determined to be free of pop cliché and keep our feet on the ground that we were really boring," he explains. "We didn't allow ourselves to enjoy it half as much as I wish we had."

Millions of record sales later, McCluskey continues to trade under the OMD banner despite the departure in 1989 of his professional partner, Paul Humphreys. And now he is preparing for the release of an impressive new album called *Universal*.

The sound, with its trademark wistful synthesizers, is instantly recognisable as OMD. But the album also has

a remarkable vibrancy for the product of an artist in his late thirties.

"I feel as strongly about this record as I used to feel about records I made 15 years ago," says McCluskey. "I'm ready to fight for this. If anybody tells me it isn't good or my video isn't great, I'm ready to punch their lights out."

Such a pugnacious approach should not be misinterpreted. Much of McCluskey's conversation, and some of the

"We didn't let ourselves enjoy it as much as I wish we had"

lyrical content of his album, is imbued with the mood of self-assessment of a 37-year-old asking himself whether it is quite proper still to be making pop records.

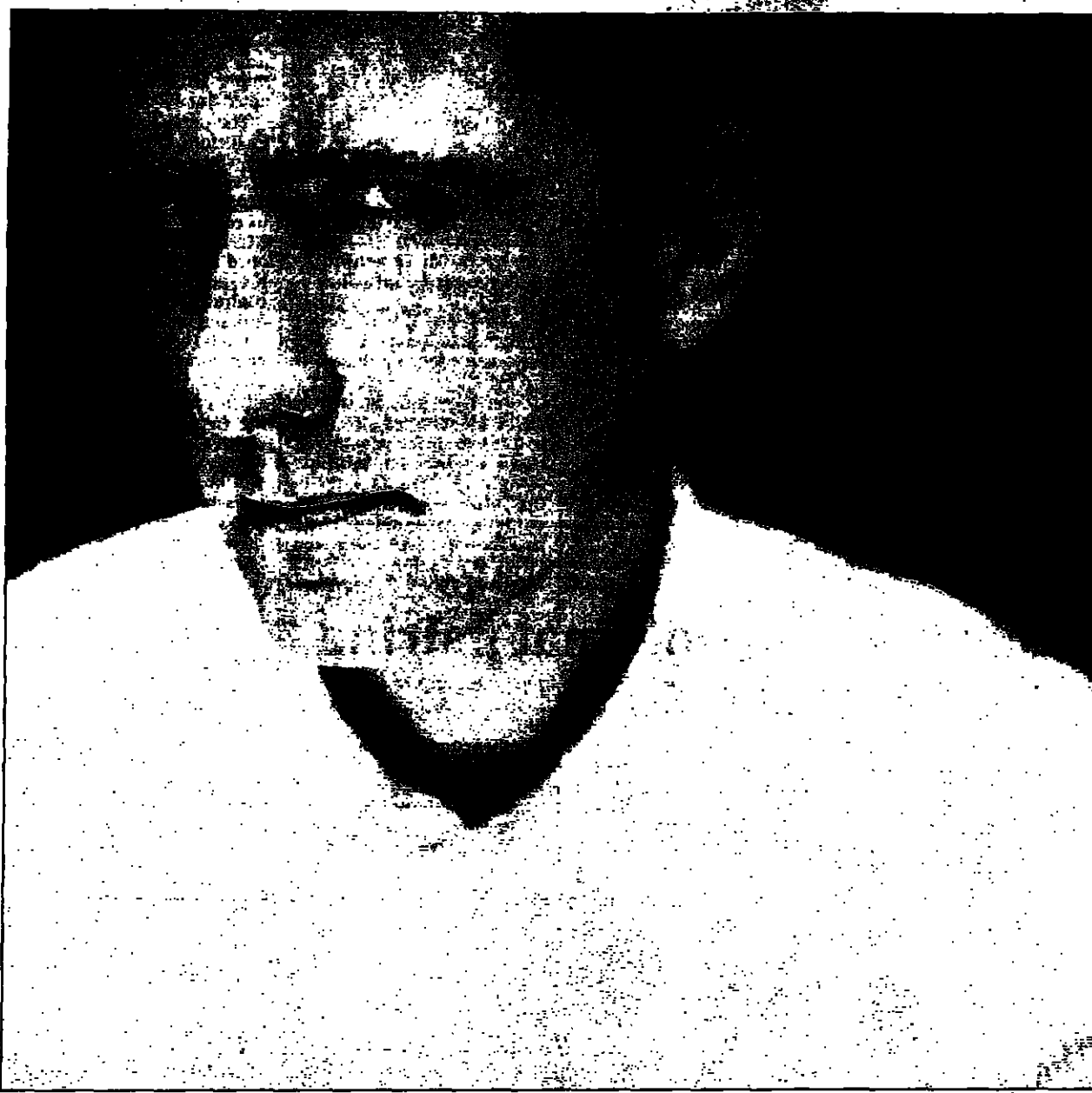
"I have a memory of myself in my late teens as a typical angry young man with lots of naive energy and determination, hating almost everything, in love with electronic music and the energy of punk," he says. "I wanted everybody who was over 25 to clear out of the way and let the new music through. Now I think 'God, I'm 37. There's an element of 'I don't want to keep making records if people don't want them'."

McCluskey still lives in the Wirral, the Liverpool suburb where he was born, and gives every impression of leading a well-adjusted life free from the ego malfunctions associated with ageing rock stars. He meets you himself, makes the tea himself. But he is under no illusions about the motivation to succeed that drives him.

"All this nonsense about 'it's my art, I just do it for myself'... if that's the case, fine, play your acoustic in your bedroom for your dog or your girlfriend. Nobody releases records without having some deep, searing, dysfunctional ego problem that they need satisfying," he says. "It gets worse when you've had a hit. Then you need more because you're a sad, insecure person who needs external gratification."

"It's not the money. That's nice but it's not the main reason. It's exposing your emotional self — if people don't like that, you wish you hadn't done it. So if people don't want to buy my records, I don't want to do it. That makes sense, doesn't it?"

After the departure of Humphreys, a copious helping of external gratification came McCluskey's way with OMD's 1991 album *Sugar Tax*, which turned into the most successful record of his career, selling some two million copies around the world and producing the huge hits *Sailing on the Seven Seas* and *Pandora's Box*. After that, 1993's *Liberator* was a comparative underachiever.



At 37, Andy McCluskey is still making albums and still feels a compulsive craving for public approval of his work

"*Liberator* sold nearly half a million copies worldwide but I didn't have a hit single," says McCluskey. "Having had those since my first album, I can't abide not having hit singles."

It is highly unlikely that he will have to suffer such an indignity with *Walking on the Milky Way*, which comes out next week as the trailer for

Universal. It is as instantly endearing a pop single as you could wish for. "It's about growing up," says McCluskey. "I think everybody at some time in their life says 'oh, this is where I am. How did I get here? Where is my beautiful house...?' He laughs at the borrowed Talking Heads lyric. "It's stocktaking of me and my life."

Pondering his own musical survival, McCluskey can espy at least one positive thing about an industry that measures out fame by the quarter hour. "The way OMD sounded in 1981 was certainly different to almost everything else in the chart," he says. "You can argue that because it was a new sound, that was what attracted people. Maybe

that was part of it. But disregarding the novelty factor, they were actually good songs — you can still listen to them. "Then it's all down to the quality of your songwriting, because you've got no new style to sell, no new face to entice people. And I firmly believe that I can still write a belting tune."

DAVID SANCHEZ

Street Scenes (Columbia 485137 2)

SAXOPHONIST David Sanchez's solo work skilfully blends Latin rhythms with fierce-swinging jazz and *Street Scenes* lives up to its name by operating confidently in both genres. Thus an almost Dexter Gordon-like swagger will be succeeded by a burst of R&B-type "dirty" tenor over popping Latin percussion, and a waiting soprano ballad by a gritty alto/tenor duet with guest Kenny Garrett.

The graceful acumen which enables Sanchez and his classically exuberant pianist, Danilo Perez, to move easily between their two main influences is epitomised by a second duet with Garrett, *The Elements*, in which a perfect blend is achieved between hard-driving swing and infectious Latin pep. Sanchez's album is that rare animal: a Latin-jazz amalgam which will be equally acceptable to aficionados in each camp.

SCOTT HAMILTON

My Romance (Concord CCD-4710)

ON THIS Concord album, the American tenor man Scott Hamilton teams up with the impressively adventurous pianist, Norman Simmons, bassist Dennis Irwin and drummer Chuck Riggs, but the album's defining sound results from the blend of the front-line instruments. Hamilton has brought in the cultured Joel Helleary on trombone to share solo duties.

The material is mainly customary Hamilton fare — standards, the odd original blues, medium-tempo lopes through familiar chord sequences — but a couple of tracks are subjected to intriguing arrangements which suggest that the smooth-toned tenor man is seeking to vary his winning formula a little.

CHRIS PARKER

When God comes to the gig

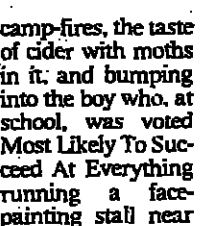
If a big outdoor show really takes off, life is never the same again

The summer is good for growing things. Fruit, trees, insects, late-night drinking beer-guts — all that nature business. But summer's Growing Speciality is audiences. Whereas in the cold and driven spring we all huddled in 2,000 capacity cocoons, numbers weakened by colds, flu, and the horrific idea of leaving the house during night-time hours when *Police! Camera! Action!* is on, the summer brings with it a surge of growth hormones so powerful that we burst from the empty shells of the Forum, the Apollo and the Civic Hall, and make our way, 50,000 strong, into the Great Outdoors for big summer music.

Paul Weller, Oasis and Pulp are all staking out acres of Merrie England this month, liberally scattering it with bars, letting lesser bands play during the sunstroke hours, and finally striding onstage when the sun has fallen far enough for those follow-spots to light the lead singer holy.

And the best of times are truly the Best Of Times — when an outdoor gig comes together, when the band are so on top of things that all the audience wants to do is get on top of each other, there is nothing to beat it.

Combined with the smell of



CAITLIN MORAN

camp-fires, the taste of cider with moths in it, and bumping into the boy who, at school, was voted Most Likely To Succeed At Everything running a face-painting stall near the toilets, life can seem perfect. But sadly, these occasions are all too rare.

"Think of it from the bands' point of view — they have usually been touring for a solid year. Yesterday was a headline slot at a festival in Sweden. Tomorrow is a headline slot in Dublin. They have played the songs so often that

they have become conversations and we know the punch-line. However God-struck and inspired a band are when they conceive a song, they can never hope to recreate that visceral urge at every gig.

So most gigs are a live take-away — professional renditions of hits, misses and favoured album tracks, big flashing lights and the opportunity for the audience to sing itself hoarse and burn its fingers to a crisp, on shoddy lighters during the ballads.

However, every audience

secretly hankers for passion so intense it becomes destructive — stage-wrecking, stage-diving, fire, riot, flood — this is why we go to gigs. Every ticket purchased is a wish that this will be the gig where the band implode, because rock mythology only has time for the most driven of moments.

When bands do implode — Nirvana at Reading in 1993, Kurt Cobain in a blood-stained smock, entering in a wheelchair and leaving after smashing up amps, guitars and drums to hysterical feedback: Manic Street Preachers' last British gig before Richey Edwards disappeared, wrecking £7,000's worth of gear and leaving the stage with nosebleeds caused by the sheer noise they had made — then the audience is truly happy.

Our squeals and screams are part of the soundtrack to something our children will speak of with envy. In some way — with audience voodoo power — we made it happen.

Of course, if the band do not feel like injecting each other with cyanide and dying on stage while the PA plays *The Marseillaise*, all is not lost. Even if a band have already played 100 gigs that year, that still breaks down as: 50 enjoyable, professional concerts; 25 appalling hangover gigs; and 25 hello-mother-my-life-has-changed occasions.

When Pulp played Glastonbury in 1995, no auto-destruct was needed — had Jarvis ripped the set list in half at the end, it would have seemed a bit extreme. They simply played with passion, wit, love, hunger and grace.

Similarly, when Oasis played Maine Road a few months back, nothing really happened. Noel and Liam did not fight. Liam and the audience did not fight, even the expected ruck between the half of the audience who were in Fred Perry shirts versus the other half in Stussy shirts did not happen. Oasis were, simply, the most fantastic two hours happening anywhere in the world that night. And that is all that this month's big gigs really need.

● Oasis's *Loch Lomond* and *Knebworth* dates are sold out. Pulp play Chelmsford on August 17 (sold out) and Victoria Park, Warrington on August 18 (tickets still available). Paul Weller plays Highland Park, Chelmsford on August 18 (tickets available)

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Jagged Little Pill | Alanis Morissette (Maverick) |
| 2 Mos Def & Diddy | Ocean Colour Scene (MCA) |
| 3 The Smurfs Go Pop! | Smurfs (EMI TV) |
| 4 Reaching Dream | Crowded House (Capitol) |
| 5 Falling Into You | Celine Dion (Epic) |
| 6 (What's The Story) Morning Glory? | Oasis (Creation) |
| 7 The Score | Fugees (Columbia) |
| 8 Wildest Dreams | Tina Turner (Parlophone) |
| 9 18 Til I Die | Bryan Adams (A&M) |
| 10 Older | George Michael (Virgin) |

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Enis Costello & The Attractions

OUT THIS WEEK

Beautifully arranged, this album is a collection of songs, this has to be the best album in many years.

The Sunday Telegraph

Enis Costello, he's a bloody laugh in his own right.

Loaded

Enis Costello & The Attractions

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Simon Roke - DAILY MIRROR

...one thumping humdinger of an action adventure.

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Steve Wynn - LIFE SUIT

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GOLF

Three-colour trick causes cards chaos

FROM MEL WEBB IN GOTHENBURG

FOR a while there was more than a small element of farce surrounding the first round of the Volvo Scandinavian Masters yesterday. It was a slapstick effort that turned part of the day into a sort of *Carry On Up The Scoreboard* — and it depended on the colour yellow, or red, or blue, or any combination of the three.

The hues in question were those adorning the bibs worn by the caddies, and with the scoring system set up to recognise players' scores by the colour of the bibs, what later became a great lark all stemmed from wrongly-coloured bibs being given out to many of the caddies.

Add the fact that a good number of the volunteer scorers on the Forsgården course plainly had not the faintest idea what some of the players looked like, and the potential

for a comic disaster became more obvious. There were mistakes in 25 of the first 26 three-balls on the scoreboards. Confusion reigned.

Among several howling errors was that Colin Montgomerie, tall, fair and well-built, was mistaken for David Feherty, shorter, dark and wiry, with the result that they were given each other's scores. It would have suited Feherty very well — he had a 75, Montgomerie a 69 — but the fact that Montgomerie's caddy was wearing Feherty's man's blue bib meant nothing in the recorder's cabin.

Montgomerie, it goes without saying, knew exactly what he had scored and, in accordance with the new precepts of his professional life, which could be summed up in the phrase "more work equals more bories equals more



Montgomerie was happy with his 69, three behind the leading pair, on a day of scoreboard confusion

smiles", was happy enough with his three-under-par round, which left him two shots behind Santiago Luna and Thomas Bjorn, the joint leaders.

"If I put in everything I can into my practice, it will get rid of any disappointments and frustrations I might feel," he said. "If I do that, I'll be quite happy with myself, no matter what I score. It's important to have self-belief — after all, I

realise I am good at this game." Such modesty — but there is no denying that he is right.

John Daly was in trouble again. He returned a 69, then had a two-stroke penalty imposed on him for brushing away a tiny pile of sand in front of his ball on the fringe of the 9th green; he did not know that the only place that would have been permitted was on the green itself.

Father and son eye chance of final pairing

MANY moons ago, when Ian Richardson was a talented young professional, he sought the help of John Jacobs, for the unusual reason that he was desperate to lose length (Patricia Davies writes). Even now, at the age of 50, long reinstated as an amateur, he has power to spare and has yet to use a wood in five rounds of the English Amateur Championship at the Notts Golf Club, Hollinwell.

Richardson, from Burghley Park, in Lincolnshire, putted well yesterday, too, and was six under par in overcoming Gary Wolstenholme, the Mid-Amateur champion. He also proved too good for Lew Watcman, of Bedfordshire.

However, there is yet another Richardson progressing through the other half of the draw: Carl, Ian's 19-year old son, defeated Robert Chattaway and Matthew

Cryer, to keep alive hopes of a final that would be a first in the history of the championship.

But before father can meet son over 36 holes tomorrow, there are still two matches to be won by each of them. The immediate hurdles are John Pounder, of Yeovil, for Richardson senior and Justin Rose, the 16-year-old boy-wonder, from Hampshire, for Richardson junior.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Gibbs ready to make curtain call

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THERE was an example last Saturday of Scott Gibbs at his best in rugby league. At short range, the London Broncos' defence had more chance of catching a runaway truck. It was a treasured try and a fitting farewell if Gibbs had opted to bow out then.

The postscript is tonight at Castleford. Gibbs, officially, is a Swansea rugby union player again, two years after his departure from St Helens's for its rugby league namesake on Merseyside. St Helens managed to persuade him, despite his new £200,000 four-year contract with Swansea, to turn out one more time.

Gibbs is a reassuring presence tonight in a back line missing Alan Hunte and possibly Paul Newlove, should the Great Britain centre not recover from a painful toe injury. Gibbs's contribution will be recognised by a winner's medal in the post, provided St Helens maintain their narrow lead of the Staines Super League.

"I wouldn't be going unless I thought St Helens could win the Super League," Gibbs, who leaves on good terms, said.

Bradford Bulls' search for a successor to Brian Smith as coach has ended on their doorstep. Matthew Elliot, Smith's popular Australian assistant, will be confirmed today as coach for next season. Smith leaves for Parramatta after the play-offs next month.

ASCOT

THUNDERER
6.00 Umberston. 6.30 Tautan Boy. 7.00 Queen's Pageant. 7.30 Kaysee. 8.00 Silca's My Key. 8.30 Lieling.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

6.00 BUCKINGHAM PALACE APPRENTICE

HANDICAP (£4,061: 1m 40) (11 runners)
1 (2) 0421 ACTION JACKSON 7 (5) R McMan 4-9-12 (40)
2 (1) 0400 TROLETTE 74 (R) C.D. 5-11 (Amey Cook 93)
3 (8) 0100 SQUADRA 7 (D.F.S.) R Flower 6-9-4 (C. Amey 95)
4 (1) 050 SHARP PROGRESS 15 (A) J. Jones 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
5 (11) 0300 RISING SPRAY 7 (C) Hagan 5-9-4 (Amey 95)
6 (1) 0501 SHIRAZ 27 (D.F.S.) J. Jones 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
7 (12) 0214 VOICES IN THE SKY 2 (7) 5 November 5-8-10 (S. Amey 95)
8 (9) 0300 UMBERSTON 22 (L) C. Amey 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
9 (10) 0300 PRINCE OF BESSY 27 (S) Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
10 (10) 0300 BRONZE RUNNER 11 (D.F.S.) E. Wheeler 12-7-12 (S. Amey 95)
11 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)

6.30 INVOSHIRE GROUP HANDICAP

(£5,680: 1m 20) (12)
1 (1) 0621 ALANUS 57 (D.F.) W. Hagan 5-10-8 (S. Amey 97)
2 (8) 020 CHARTER 20 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
3 (1) 1114 ROLLOUT 13 (D.F.S.) W. Hagan 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
4 (8) 0111 PISTOL 9 (D.F.) C. Hagan 6-9-5 (S. Amey 97)
5 (1) 0302 SHIRAZ 27 (D.F.S.) J. Jones 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
6 (12) 0214 VOICES IN THE SKY 2 (7) 5 November 5-8-10 (S. Amey 95)
7 (9) 0300 UMBERSTON 22 (L) C. Amey 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
8 (10) 0300 PRINCE OF BESSY 27 (S) Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
9 (10) 0300 BRONZE RUNNER 11 (D.F.S.) E. Wheeler 12-7-12 (S. Amey 95)
10 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
11 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
12 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)

7.00 INVOSHIRE MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: 55,472: 6f) (8)
1 (1) 0621 ALANUS 57 (D.F.) W. Hagan 5-10-8 (S. Amey 97)
2 (8) 020 CHARTER 20 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
3 (1) 1114 ROLLOUT 13 (D.F.S.) W. Hagan 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
4 (8) 0111 PISTOL 9 (D.F.) C. Hagan 6-9-5 (S. Amey 97)
5 (1) 0302 SHIRAZ 27 (D.F.S.) J. Jones 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
6 (12) 0214 VOICES IN THE SKY 2 (7) 5 November 5-8-10 (S. Amey 95)
7 (9) 0300 UMBERSTON 22 (L) C. Amey 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
8 (10) 0300 PRINCE OF BESSY 27 (S) Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
9 (10) 0300 BRONZE RUNNER 11 (D.F.S.) E. Wheeler 12-7-12 (S. Amey 95)
10 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
11 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
12 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)

7.30 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE/JOCKEYS

ASSOCIATION RATED HANDICAP (£6,818: 7f) (7)
1 (1) 0621 ALANUS 57 (D.F.) W. Hagan 5-10-8 (S. Amey 97)
2 (8) 020 CHARTER 20 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
3 (1) 1114 ROLLOUT 13 (D.F.S.) W. Hagan 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
4 (8) 0111 PISTOL 9 (D.F.) C. Hagan 6-9-5 (S. Amey 97)
5 (1) 0302 SHIRAZ 27 (D.F.S.) J. Jones 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
6 (12) 0214 VOICES IN THE SKY 2 (7) 5 November 5-8-10 (S. Amey 95)
7 (9) 0300 UMBERSTON 22 (L) C. Amey 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
8 (10) 0300 PRINCE OF BESSY 27 (S) Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
9 (10) 0300 BRONZE RUNNER 11 (D.F.S.) E. Wheeler 12-7-12 (S. Amey 95)
10 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
11 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
12 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)

8.00 PEREGRINE SECURITIES NURSERY

HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £5,576: 7f) (8)
1 (1) 0621 ALANUS 57 (D.F.) W. Hagan 5-10-8 (S. Amey 97)
2 (8) 020 CHARTER 20 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
3 (1) 1114 ROLLOUT 13 (D.F.S.) W. Hagan 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
4 (8) 0111 PISTOL 9 (D.F.) C. Hagan 6-9-5 (S. Amey 97)
5 (1) 0302 SHIRAZ 27 (D.F.S.) J. Jones 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
6 (12) 0214 VOICES IN THE SKY 2 (7) 5 November 5-8-10 (S. Amey 95)
7 (9) 0300 UMBERSTON 22 (L) C. Amey 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
8 (10) 0300 PRINCE OF BESSY 27 (S) Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
9 (10) 0300 BRONZE RUNNER 11 (D.F.S.) E. Wheeler 12-7-12 (S. Amey 95)
10 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
11 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
12 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)

8.30 CRANBOURNE CHASE MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: £5,394: 1m 40) (5)
1 (1) 0621 ALANUS 57 (D.F.) W. Hagan 5-10-8 (S. Amey 97)
2 (8) 020 CHARTER 20 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
3 (1) 1114 ROLLOUT 13 (D.F.S.) W. Hagan 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
4 (8) 0111 PISTOL 9 (D.F.) C. Hagan 6-9-5 (S. Amey 97)
5 (1) 0302 SHIRAZ 27 (D.F.S.) J. Jones 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
6 (12) 0214 VOICES IN THE SKY 2 (7) 5 November 5-8-10 (S. Amey 95)
7 (9) 0300 UMBERSTON 22 (L) C. Amey 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
8 (10) 0300 PRINCE OF BESSY 27 (S) Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
9 (10) 0300 BRONZE RUNNER 11 (D.F.S.) E. Wheeler 12-7-12 (S. Amey 95)
10 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
11 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
12 (4) 0300 LEAP IN THE DARK 11 (5) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M. Prescott, 5 winners from 20 runners, 25.0%, Lady Harrier, 8 from 82, 14.9%, J. Dando, 28 from 121, 23.1%, J. Dando, 13 from 48, 27.1%, W. Hagan, 3 from 18, 16.7%, J. Gossard, 19 from 124, 15.3%
JOCKEYS: P. Eddery, 34 winners from 244 rides, 13.9%, J. Quinn, 25 from 185, 13.5%, Only qualifiers.

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER
6.15 Uncle George. 6.40 Children's Choice. 7.10 Mousehole. 7.40 Arabian Heights. 8.10 Shouk. 8.40 Royale Figurine.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

6.15 RO-TUCK FOR SCANIA SELLING STAKES

(£3,720: 1m) (10 runners)
1 1008 DANCING LADY 15 (D.F.S.) R. McMan 4-9-12 (40)
2 2118 HAWKMAN 6 (D.F.S.) R. McMan 4-9-12 (40)
3 2138 PERSIAN PLEASURE 17 (D.F.S.) J. Jones 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
4 0000 MEDANATE 24 (R) A. Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
5 0015 MISS LAUGHTON 24 (D.F.S.) J. Jones 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
6 0015 INDIAN PROGRESS 15 (A) J. Jones 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
7 0000 CRYSTAL PAST 17 (R) P. Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
8 0000 KUNIA 12 (D.F.S.) J. Jones 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
9 0000 ONLY 9 (R) Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
10 0000 UNCLE GEORGE 6 (D.F.S.) R. McMan 4-9-12 (40)

6.40 LUCINDA STOPFORD SACKVILLE LADIES

HANDICAP (£3,720: 1m 40) (7)
1 2402 BELMONTA 9 (R) McMan 4-9-12 (40)
2 000 MEDANATE 24 (R) A. Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
3 2022 BO WITH THE WIND 11 (R) M. Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
4 000 CHILDREN'S CHOICE 64 (R) C. Amey 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
5 0405 ELA MAN HOWA 13 (R) A. Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
6 000 STRATE LEADY 33 (D.F.S.) D. Amey 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)
7 000 STAR ANGE 23 (R) M. Hagan 5-9-4 (S. Amey 95)
8 000 CHILDREN'S CHOICE 64 (R) C. Amey 3-8-4 (S. Amey 95)

7.10 VARDY CONTINENTAL HANDICAP

(£6,000: 6f) (8)
1 1025 RICHMOND BAY 15 (R) T. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
2 0315 GOLDEN POND 14 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
3 0315 GOLDEN POND 14 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
4 0315 GOLDEN POND 14 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
5 0315 GOLDEN POND 14 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
6 0315 GOLDEN POND 14 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
7 0315 GOLDEN POND 14 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
8 0315 GOLDEN POND 14 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)

7.40 SCANIA 1996 TRUCK OF THE YEAR TROPHY

HANDICAP (£5,754: 1m 20) (14)
1 1054 KINGS KING 16 (R) Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
2 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
3 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
4 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
5 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
6 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
7 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
8 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
9 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
10 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
11 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
12 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
13 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)
14 0611 ELASHTON 16 (D.F.) M. Hagan 5-9-10 (S. Amey 97)

8.10 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND BEACON

MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,581: 7f) (8)
1 0000 JAMBOREE 1 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
2 0000 JAMBOREE 1 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
3 0000 JAMBOREE 1 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
4 0000 JAMBOREE 1 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
5 0000 JAMBOREE 1 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
6 0000 JAMBOREE 1 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
7 0000 JAMBOREE 1 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)
8 0000 JAMBOREE 1 (D.F.) S. Amey 5-9-5 (R. Hagan 97)

8.40 DEREK JONES COMMERCIALS FOR SCANIA

FILLIES CONDITIONS STAKES (£5,394: 6f) (5)
1 0000 ROYAL FUGURINE 21 (D.F.S.) M. Hagan 5-9-12 (40)
2 2131 WATON ME 43 (D.F.) R. Hagan 5-9-12 (40)
3 4300 HIND FOR THE HILLS 17 (D.F.S.) D. Hagan 5-9-12 (40)
4 0000 RED RHYTHM 48 (D.F.) W. Hagan 5-9-12 (40)
5 0000 TROPICAL DANCE 34 (D.F.S.) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
6 0000 TROPICAL DANCE 34 (D.F.S.) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
7 0000 TROPICAL DANCE 34 (D.F.S.) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
8 0000 TROPICAL DANCE 34 (D.F.S.) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
9 0000 TROPICAL DANCE 34 (D.F.S.) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
10 0000 TROPICAL DANCE 34 (D.F.S.) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
11 0000 TROPICAL DANCE 34 (D.F.S.) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
12 0000 TROPICAL DANCE 34 (D.F.S.) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
13 0000 TROPICAL DANCE 34 (D.F.S.) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)
14 0000 TROPICAL DANCE 34 (D.F.S.) M. J. Sedall 7-7-11 (S. Amey 95)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D. Loder, 20 winners from 99 runners, 20.2%, J. Gossard, 54 from 82, 14.9%, J. Dando, 28 from 121, 23.1%, J. Dando, 13 from 48, 27.1%, W. Hagan, 3 from 18, 16.7%, J. Gossard, 19 from 124, 15.3%
JOCKEYS: J. Stock, 7 winners from 54 rides, 12.9%, R. Hills, 28 from 225, 12.4%, M. Hills, 35 from 337, 10.4%, Only qualifiers.

Morny next for unbeaten Zamindar

ZAMINDAR, Zafonic's full-brother, remains unbeaten after two outings with an all-the-way victory in the group three Prix de Cabourg on the opening day of the Deauville Festival yesterday. Ladbrokes cut the colt to 8-1 for next year's 2,000 Guineas.

Although most observers considered that yesterday's victory was workmanlike, rather than brilliant, the Andre Fabre-trained colt was never in danger of defeat and had 2½ lengths to spare over Dyhim Diamond.

Thierry Jarret, the winning jockey, said: "Zamindar showed plenty of courage and did just what I wanted. He is the obvious favourite for the Prix Morny, but Grant Pritchard-Gordon, representing Khaled Abdulla, put yesterday's race into perspective. He said: 'Zamindar has had two easy races now. The Morny will be the real test.'"

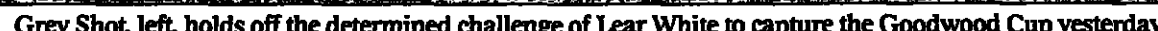
The group one Prix Morny, which Zafonic won in 1992, takes place at Deauville on Sunday August 18.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Goodwood Going: good to firm 2.15 (1m 40) 1. BENATON (P. Eddery, 9-2 fav), 2. Mental Pressure (R. Darley, 11-4), 3. Arnhem (S. Doyle, 12-1), 4. ALDO RAN 13-2 Nervous, 5. Jazz King (4th), Sharal, 11 Orinoco River, 12 Gumbi (8th), 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 43

Grey Shot strikes target with gallant success

Kevin Darley completed a 424-1 treble in the last three races of the day to leapfrog Pat Eddery and lead the race for the jockeys' London Clubs Trophy.



Salmon Ladder to step lively

GOODWOOD
BBC2

vine. That result should tell Cumaní where he stands with God. Dances, who should be thereabouts off only a 3lb higher mark. Midnight Legend lost yards

showed a good turn of foot to land the spoils at Lingfield recently. Pat Eddery should be able to drop in the Night Shift colt from his moderate draw and he can follow up off a 4lb higher mark.

2.45: This is far from straightforward with several progressive horses stepping up in trip. Mushahid looks sure to appreciate the extra two furlongs after pipping Phantom Quest over a roll at Doncaster, while Fahim and Crown Court will also progress.

Kuala Lips is fairly treated on his handicap, debut

handicap victory off ten stone was no fluke when just going down to the well-regarded Wall Street at Newbury. The step up to a mile-and-a-half should suit and can bring about further improvement.

3.50: Pipsy Creek did this column a big favour at Royal Ascot where Ben Hanbury's fast swimmer overcame a big

having won in a last time at York, but Mawingo is a confident choice. The in-form Geoff Wragg has already won three races with the progressive colt, who looked as though today's trip

3:20 Guy Hairwood is wasting no time running Better Offer after his narrow victory over Beyond Doubt at second to Dazzle in the Windsor Castle, duly followed up at the expense of the well-regarded Compton Place at Sandown and looks the main danger.

RICHARD EVANS

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3/1 Crown Court 16/1 Exalted

3/1 Fahim	16/1 Mushahid
9/2 Mawingo	20/1 Wot No Fax
8/1 Double Bluff	25/1 Believe Me
12/1 Kuala Lipis	25/1 Murteb
14/1 Freedom Flame	33/1 Iamus

Each way One Quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3. Prices subject to fluctuation.
Available up to 2.30pm. Tattersalls Rule 4(c) may apply. Non runner - no bet.

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• Teletext on CH4 5601/602/603

William HILL

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Caricature, School Boy. 5.35 Hinton Rock. **NEWMARKET:**
2.25 Central East. 5.40 M. Keen. **THRSK:** 4.25 Chud Up

615 Crystal Fast 640 marked "FANSTIC 425" inside cap.

TRAINERS: G Richards, 23 winners from 86 runners, 26.7%. M Pipe, 15 from 58, 25.9%; D Burchell, 4 from 17, 23.5%; P Hobbs, 3 from 13, 23.1%; J Jenkins, 3 from 14, 21.4%; Miss H Knight, 3 from 22, 13.6%.

JOCKEYS: D J Burchell, 4 winners from 17 rides, 23.5%. A P McCoy, 3 from 13, 23.1%; D Bridgwater, 11 from 57, 19.3%; A Dobbin, 5 from 27, 18.5%; W Marston, 7 from 38, 18.4%; B Harding, 6 from 33, 18.2%.

1

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BANGOR	103	203
ASCOT	104	204
NEWMARKET	105	205

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1 mile 2 furlongs, Goodwood 2.45pm, Live on BBC TV.
3/1 Crown Court **16/1 Exalted**

3/1 Fahim	16/1 Mushahid
9/2 Mawingo	20/1 Wot No Fax

8/1 Double Bluff	25/1 Believe Me
12/1 Kuala Lipis	25/1 Murheb
14/1 Freedom Flame	33/1 Iamus

16/1 Al Abraq **33/1 The Dilettanti**

Each way One Quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3. Prices subject to fluctuation.
Available up to 2.30pm. Tattersalls Rule 4(c) may apply. Non runner - no bet.

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CRICKET

Hayhurst at end of road as Somerset take action

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TAUNTON (first day of four: Hampshire won toss): Somerset have scored 412 for six wickets against Hampshire

COUNTIES too often duck the tough decisions, but Somerset yesterday, making political intrigue out of a sensitive yet straightforward selection issue, Andy Hayhurst, the club captain, was stood down from the side an hour before the start against Hampshire. He may not play at this level again.

The official reason for Hayhurst's demotion is his form which, with only two championship scores above 15 this summer has, unarguably, been dire. Suspicions both in the dressing-room and around the Taunton ground, however, ran far deeper and the handling of the matter seemed needlessly heavy. Hayhurst may be under pressure to resign the captaincy but, last night, he stressed he had no intention of doing so.

To add to the drama, his late replacement in the side, Marcus Trescothick, responded with 178, the highest score of his career. It was an impressive piece of batting by a young man who should have been given a regular place this season. The fact that he has not, within a team selected by Hayhurst and Peter Bowler but not by the director of cricket, Bob Cottam, undoubtedly helped to bring the leadership issue to a head.

Hayhurst was called in for an early morning meeting with Brian Rose, once the county captain and now their chairman of cricket. It was his decision to omit Hayhurst and, while insisting that the NatWest Trophy defeat at the Oval on Wednesday had no bearing, he did not pretend it had been easy.



Hayhurst: dire form

"It was a big shock to Andy and I feel very sad for him," Rose said. "We all have to make some tough decisions and I wish I didn't have to do this, but I honestly believe it is in the long-term interests of the club."

The long-term future of Hayhurst is unclear but, by applying for the vacancy as cricket secretary of Lancashire last winter, he was tacitly admitting that his playing days are almost over. He has made only 224 runs this season, averaging 18.66, and he will play in the second XI as from Monday. He seems certain to be replaced as captain, though whether it is by Bowler, who took over yesterday, remains to be seen.

"This has all been done in a rush and we must live with the decision for a while to see how it pans out," Rose said. "We gave more selection responsibility to the captain and vice-captain this year and whether that is the right system, I don't know. From now on, we need to get the youngsters performing well."

In part, this was achieved at a stroke. Restored to the opening role he enjoys, Trescothick batted for five hours, hitting 32 fours in a poised and attractive innings. It is three years since his debut but he is still only 20 and Somerset must back him with a long run in the side.

Hampshire, fielding a raw attack still missing Connor and Benjamin, were donated two early successes by rash strokes, one of which cost Bowler his wicket before he had scored. But a green pitch, preferred by Bowler to the groundsman's original choice, offered little assistance on a day of batting domination.

Trescothick, playing only his sixth championship game of the summer, added 154 for the third wicket with Harden and 51 for the fourth with Parsons. He played a full range of shots and, when the ball began to turn, for Udal, he demonstrated the soft-handed timing that brought him to the county's attention.

For once, Shane Lee was overshadowed, making only 26 before being caught on the boundary, but by the time Trescothick was caught at slip Somerset were in firm control. Turner and Rose, with a rapid half-century, took them past 400 and they are well placed to follow up their win over Yorkshire last week.



Wells forces the ball through the leg side during his double century against Northamptonshire yesterday

Leaders aided by rising Wells

By IVO TENNANT

LEICESTER (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss): Leicestershire have scored 364 for seven wickets against Northamptonshire

WHEN Vince Wells scores a century, it is invariably a large one. In three consecutive matches this season he made 200, 201 and 197, two of these innings in the championship, one in the NatWest Trophy, and all of them compiled with the authority of one whose standing in the game rises inexorably. Yesterday he struck an unbeaten, career-best 202, which was of inestimable worth to the joint championship leaders.

For Leicestershire had been put in on a pitch the hue of lime green and, Simmons apart, possessed nobody else capable of mastering the Northamptonshire attack. In the course of his innings, Wells reached 1,000 runs for the season for the first time in his career. He exemplifies the adage that an English batsman does not reach maturity until he is 30.

He and Simmons, who made 261 in his only previous innings against Northamptonshire, put on 152 in 38 overs. The decision to field, taken by Fordham in Bailey's absence, was an understandable one. Yet the pitches here, as at Northampton and Derby, are not always all they look. Ambrose was unable to gain much life in the match. Only Curran, who took the first two wickets, bowled with any zip.

Ambrose, who fields at first slip these days, held two low catches with a nonchalant height. The second was to account for Macmillan, one of two wickets Snape took in his first over, which was rather later in the day than he might have envisaged. Embury remains the first-choice spinner and might yet do so for some while.

There was little help for either of them. Their concern, at this stage, was to contain Wells, who collected his runs efficiently all round the wicket. Not a great many of his strokes remain in the mind's eye, but that could be said of several good batsmen. Wells reached his double century in the closing overs, having struck 30 fours and a six off 292 balls and preserved his wicket for the morrow.

England kept afloat by buoyant Sales

By RUPERT COX

OLD TRAFFORD (first day of four: England Under-19 won toss): England Under-19 have scored 213 for six wickets against New Zealand Under-19

THERE will have been some anxiety in the England Under-19 ranks at tea yesterday, before a fifth-wicket stand of 101 between Ben Hollis and David Sales restored some parity in the first NatWest Under-19 Test match.

The home team, led by Gareth Barry in the absence of Alex Morris, appeared to have won an important toss, but declined to 103 for four after 34 overs in a match disrupted by rain.

Hartley comes to Yorkshire's aid

By SIMON WILDE

EASTBOURNE (first day of four: Sussex won toss): Sussex, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 312 runs behind Yorkshire

A RAMPAGING eighth-wicket partnership of 151 in 93 minutes between Richard Blakey and Peter Hartley, both of whom made their best scores of the season, pulled Yorkshire out of trouble at the Saffrons yesterday with all the resourcefulness of aspiring championship winners. Hartley added gilt to the lily by removing Hall and Lewry, the nightwatchman, as Sussex stumbled to 33 for two by the close.

Hartley, who has not allowed his benefit to prevent him making several important contributions on the field, top-scored in Yorkshire's total of 345 with a bright and breezy 89 that occupied only 76 balls and contained two sixes and 16 fours. Coming as it did after Yorkshire had crept uncertainly to 150 for seven, it was an innings that changed the chemistry of the day.

Among the suffering bowlers was Ed Giddins, finally named yesterday as the Sussex player who had failed a random drugs test two months ago. In identifying Giddins, the Test and County Cricket Board charged him with using a prohibited substance and bringing the game into disrepute. He will face the board's full disciplinary committee on August 19. He remains free to play county cricket in the meantime.

Giddins was hoicked unceremoniously over mid-wicket for six by Hartley, who also drove Law over the long-on boundary during his third half-century of the season batting at No. 6. Blakey was more subdued than his partner in what was Yorkshire's highest ninth-wicket stand since 1935, but not much. He hit one six and 12 in his unbeaten 80 which lasted 114 balls.

Under this fierce assault, the Sussex bowlers, previously disciplined, lost their length and some of their spice. During the morning, admittedly under heavy cloud cover, they made the ball swing and had Yorkshire on the rack. Vaughan, Byas and Moxon were all bowled, although they might not have been had they been on the front foot.

Bevan, given an early reprieve by Speight in the gully, briefly threatened to bludgeon his side out of trouble before he was dismissed in peculiar circumstances. In attempting a pull against Giddins, he was struck by the ball on the chin, and under the initial impact kicked his stumps.

McGrath and White began the rebuilding with a careful stand of 90 before Drakes, whose final figures of five for 99 were his best for Sussex, removed both during a spell of three wickets in 11 balls.

By JACK BAILEY

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire have scored 311 for six wickets

IT WAS Ladies Day at Canterbury. So what with all the ladies in those lovely hats, a phalanx of distinguished visitors - spearheaded by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the former Archbishop of Canterbury - and Kent, unbeaten in the championship, it would have been difficult for anyone unconnected with the county to steal the scene. Graeme Hick, though, accomplished it with some ease. Emerging from the slough of despond that was for him the Lord's Test, Hick showed how well he is suited to the county game. Steadily, surely and sometimes brutally, he moved

Departure of Carr new blow to Middlesex

By PAT GIBSON

LORD'S (first day of four: Middlesex won toss): Essex, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 232 runs behind Middlesex

MIDDLESEX, who were already going through a difficult period of transition, suffered another setback yesterday when John Carr announced that he is to retire to take up a new position as cricket operations manager with the Test and County Cricket Board.

How big a loss that will be was immediately emphasised when Carr, captaining the side while Mike Gatting recovers from knee surgery, had to call on all his operational skills to engineer a recovery after Middlesex had lost their first two wickets without a run on the board against a resurgent Essex, who are beginning to make the championship pacesetters look over their shoulders.

He made a pretty good job of it. Pooley emerged from his lean spell to join Carr in a third-wicket partnership of 106 and then Brown demonstrated his fighting qualities once more by batting through 40 overs for an unbeaten 64, inspiring enough resistance from a lengthy tail for Middlesex to reach 264.

Carr, 33, whose father, Donald, was the first TCCB secretary, will become head of their cricket department on October 1, effectively replacing Tim Lamb on his promotion to chief executive.

Middlesex's present fragility was quickly exposed when Lott's early swing did for Weekes and Ramprakash in his first two overs. Fortunately, Pooley revealed signs of returning form with seven fours in his 50 and Carr showed that he is still fiercely committed to the cause by surviving two difficult chances to make 66, including 11 fours, in three hours.

Both of them fell to catches at second slip by Gooch and Middlesex were slipping back into trouble when Wellings missed a hook against Lott and had to retire with a cut above the left eye which needed a couple of stitches. Brown, however, spent long enough in the bowling ring before deciding to concentrate on a career in cricket not to be deterred by things like that and Wellings returned to prove that he had not lost his nerve.

DeFreitas haul causes misery for Gloucester

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

PHILIP DEFREITAS captured five wickets in an innings for the first time this season as Derbyshire still very much in the championship hunt, took control against Gloucestershire at Derby yesterday.

Only Matthew Windoos, with 76, offered lengthy resistance as Gloucestershire were bowled out for 217, which increased their miserable tally of batting points to 14 in 11 games. With Windoos punishing a wayward Dominic Cork, they reached 114 for three before DeFreitas caused a rapid decline in their fortunes.

After losing two early wickets to Courtney Walsh, Derby-

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YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Derbyshire v Gloucestershire

DERBY (first day of four: Gloucestershire won toss): Derbyshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 51 runs behind Gloucestershire

GLoucestershire: First Innings
N J Turner lbw b Malcolm 0
M G N Windoos c Krikken b DeFreitas 78
T H C Horrocks b Dean 27
M A Lynch lbw b Dean 1
M W Alayne c Cork b Malcolm 10
A Symonds c Krikken b DeFreitas 24
R C Russell c Krikken b DeFreitas 16
R P Davis c Krikken b DeFreitas 16
M Smith c Adams b Cork 1
J Lewis c Jones b DeFreitas 11
C A Walsh not out 18
Extras (lb 6, nb 12) 27
Total (86 overs) 217

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-51, 4-114, 5-129, 6-162, 7-181, 8-182, 9-194

BOWLING: Malcolm 13-38-2, Cork 17-27-2, DeFreitas 26-10-25, Dean 10-2-29

Derbyshire: First Innings
K J Barnett lbw b Alayne 65
A S Rolins c Russell b Walsh 0
J Adams b Walsh 15
D M Jones not out 38
T J G O'Gorman b Symonds 21
D G Cork not out 26
Extras (lb 4, nb 14) 26
Total (44 wks, 37 overs) 166

C M Wells, P A J DeFreitas, K M Krikken, D E Malcolm and K J Dean to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-29, 3-125, 4-155

BOWLING: Walsh 13-63-2, Smith 7-0-33-0, Alayne 9-2-27-1, Lewis 6-2-20-0, Symonds 2-0-11-1

Bonus points: Derbyshire 4
Gloucestershire 2
Umpires: J H Harris and G Sharp

Kent v Worcestershire
CANTERBURY (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire have scored 311 for six wickets against Kent

Worcestershire: First Innings
T S Curtes c Fulton b McCague 6
W P C Weston c Hooper b Headley 18
G A Hirst run out 14
T M Moody c Fulton b Ealham 11
F R Spilling c Ealham 71
V S Solanki c Fulton b Patel 12
S J Rhodes not out 16
S R Lampitt not out 16
Extras (lb 5, nb 4, nb 18) 27
Total (6 wks, 104 overs) 311

S W K Ellis, R K Illingworth and S Sherris to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-59, 3-106, 4-266, 5-278, 6-284

BOWLING: McCague 21-71-1, Headley 25-34-1, Ealham 20-38-2, Fleming 6-18-0, Patel 6-6-5-1, Hooper 3-1-12-0, Long 1-0-8-0

Kent: T R Ward, D P Fulton, N J Long, C L Hooper, M V Fleming, M A Ealham, M J Walker, I S C Wells, D W Headley, M J McCague, M M Patel

Bonus points: Kent 2, Worcestershire 3
Umpires: H D Bird and J W Holder

Leicestershire v Northamptonshire
LEICESTER (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss): Leicestershire have scored 364 for seven wickets against Northamptonshire

Leicestershire: First Innings
V J Wells not out 222
J L Macdonald c Ambrose b Curran 22
B F Smith c Ripley b Curran 9
A Hobbs c Curran b Ambrose 19
P V Simmons b Snape 75
G I Macmillan c Ambrose b Snape 2
P A Nixon c Fordham b Embury 18
G Parsons lbw b Snape 18
A R Parnon not out 11
Extras (lb 10, w 1) 11
Total (7 wks, 104 overs) 364

M T Brimmon and A D Mulally to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56, 2-96, 3-137, 4-289, 5-291, 6-348, 7-361

BOWLING: Ambrose 17-65-3, Taylor 15-1-68-0, Curran 12-16-0-2, Capel 10-2-45-0, Embury 21-3-57-1, Penberthy 14-3-33-0, Walton 3-0-16-0, Snape 12-0-42-3

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: A Fordham, J N Smeaton, T C Walton, K M Curran, D J Capel, M B Lloy, A L Penberthy, J E Embury, 10 Ripley, J P Taylor, C E L Ambrose

Bonus points: Leicestershire 4
Northamptonshire 3
Umpires: R Julian and J D Bond

Middlesex v Essex
LORD'S (first day of four: Middlesex won toss): Essex, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 232 runs behind Middlesex

Middlesex: First Innings
P N Weekes c Rolins b Lott 0
K J Pooley c Gooch b Lott 50
R R Ramprakash lbw b Lott 66
J D Carr c Gooch b Cowan 19
P E Wellings c Grayson b Williams 64
R K Brown not out 27
J P Hirst c Law b Cowan 5
R L Johnson c Rolins b Cowan 5
R A Fay c Such b Cowan 2
R C Fraser c Prichard b Lott 2
P C R Tufnell c Such b Lott 6
Extras (lb 6, nb 16) 22
Total (94.4 overs) 264

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-0, 3-106, 4-136, 5-184, 6-212, 7-234, 8-242, 9-266

BOWLING: Lott 22-41-47-4, Williams 20-4-78-1, Iain 15-5-34-1, Cowan 21-2-76-4, Law 14-9-14-0, Such 2-0-9-0

Essex: First Innings
G A Gooch not out 11
A P Grayson not out 15
Extras (lb 4, nb 2) 6
Total (no wks, 8 overs) 32

A P Cowan, N Hussain, S G Law, P J Prichard, R C Iain, J P Rolins, M C Lott, R E Williams and P M Such to bat

BOWLING: Fraser 4-0-13-0, Johnson 4-0-15-0

Bonus points: Middlesex 2, Essex 4
Umpires: B Leachbarre and B J Meyer

Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan
WORKSOP (first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 288 for five wickets against Glamorgan

Nottinghamshire: First Innings
P R Pollard b Watson 34
R J Robinson c Maynard b Watson 43
W M Noon c Metcalf b Croft 26
A A Metcalf not out 21
P Johnson lbw b Gibson 7
C L Camm b Gibson 38
M N Bowen not out 7
Extras (lb 13, nb 9) 22
Total (5 wks, 101 overs) 288

G W Hogg, K P Evans, R T Bates and J A Alford to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-76, 2-97, 3-132, 4-162, 5-259

BOWLING: Watson 23-11-49-2, Gibson 23-9-63-2, Croft 25-12-50-1, Butcher 13-1-56-0, Kendrick 18-7-41-0

GLAMORGAN: S P James, H Morris, A W Evans, M P Hammond, P A Carter, G P Bulcher, O D Gibson, R D B Croft, N M Kendrick, T C P Metcalf, S L Watkin

Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 2
Glamorgan 2
Umpires: B Dudson and K J Lyons

Somerset v Hampshire
TAUNTON (first day of four: Hampshire won toss): Somerset have scored 412 for six wickets against Hampshire

Somerset: First Innings
M H Llewellyn c Aynes b Bowler 13
M E Trescothick c Kesh b Bowler 178
P D Bowler c Aynes b Milburn 0
R J Hardon c Kesh b Udal 54
K A Parsons c Aynes b Stephens 30
S Lee c Kendrick b Stephenson 26
H Turner not out 29
G D Rose not out 29
Extras (lb 2, lb 5, w 2, nb 18) 27
Total (6 wks, 104 overs) 412

A R Coddick, J D Batty and K J Shine to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-39, 3-193, 4-244, 5-310, 6-324

BOWLING: Bowler 23-4-101-2, Milburn 20-1-32-1, James 19-1-78-0, Stephenson 17-1-78-2, Udal 23-6-53-1, Lane 5-0-3-0

Hampshire: J S Lane, J P Stephenson, K D James, R A Smith, V P Terry, M Kesh, N A Aynes, W S Kendrick, S D Udal, N B Bawell, S M Milburn

Bonus points: Somerset 4, Hampshire 2
Umpires: A A Jones and M J Kitchen

Sussex v Yorkshire
EASTBOURNE (first day of four: Sussex won toss): Sussex, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 312 runs behind Yorkshire

Yorkshire: First Innings
M D Moxon b Lewry 2
M P Vaughan b Lewry 1
D Byas b Drakes 5
M G Bevan not out 24
A McCraith c Salisbury b Drakes 41
C White c Speight b Drakes 47
R J Blakey not out 80
D Gough lbw b Drakes 4
P J Hartley c Speight b Drakes 88
C E W Silverwood b Salisbury 12
R D Stamp b Goldies 5
Extras (lb 1, lb 12, w 1, nb 21) 35
Total (86 overs) 345

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-12, 3-22, 4-65, 5-145, 6-146, 7-150, 8-301, 9-327

BOWLING: Lewry 17-4-54-2, Drakes 22-5-93-3, Goldies 19-2-76-2, Law 9-0-61-0, Salisbury 17-11-42-1

Sussex: First Innings
C W J Ahey not out 13
J W Hall c Stamp b Hartley 13
J D Lewry lbw b Hartley 13
Extras (lb 1) 1
Total (2 wks, 12.2 overs) 33

*A P Wells, K Greenfield, M P Speight, D R Law, P Moore, D K Salisbury, V C Drakes and E S H Goldies to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-33

BOWLING: Gough 4-1-4-0, Silverwood 6-23-0, Hartley 2-0-5-2

Bonus points: Sussex 4, Yorkshire 3
Umpires: V A Holder and T E Jesty

Tour matches
Scotland v Pakistanis
EDINBURGH (Scotland won toss): the Pakistanis beat Scotland by 108 runs

Pakistanis: First Innings
Shahid Afridi b Williamson 23
Shadab Khatib c Patterson 135
Saeed Anwar b Williamson 9
Hiz Ahmed c Stanger b Sheridan 6
Asif Mubeen not out 63
Moin Khan c Stanger b Williamson 3
Mustaq Ahmed not out 4
Extras (lb 5, w 7, nb 12) 24
Total (5 wks, 50 overs) 286

Saqain, Mustaq, Ats-ur-Rehman, Mohammed Anwar and Shahid Nazir did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57, 2-81, 3-144, 4-282, 5-281

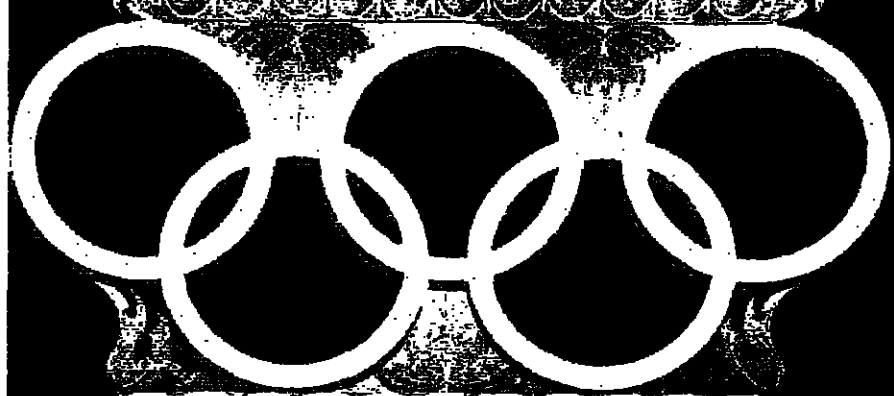
BOWLING: Thomson 10-1-49-1, Stanger 7-0-48-0, Goutley 10-1-52-0, Williamson 10-0-1-3, Rafter 3-0-21-0, Sheridan 10-0-61-0

SCOTLAND
I L Philip lbw b Nazir 50
B G Loeckie c Asif b Ats-ur-Rehman 5
G N Rennie lbw b Nazir 19
G N Patterson c Moin b Saqain 29
G Saqain c Mubeen b Saqain 27
G Williamson c Mustaq b Saqain 6
M Stanger c Moin b Saqain 10
S Goutley c Asif b Shahid 3
K P Sheridan b Shahid 0
K Thomson not out 0
Extras (lb 3, lb 6, w 8, nb 12) 29
Total (45.5 overs) 178

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-80, 3-94, 4-144, 5-146, 6-155, 7-158, 8-170, 9-175

Hick century against Kent

ATLANTA 96: THE COMPLETE GUIDE



Such is her greatness that some may even come to suggest that the ping was put before pong in her honour. Deng Yaping, at 4ft 11in and 6st, is a giant of her sport, having become the first to retain both the table tennis singles title and the doubles crown, with partner Qiao Hong. Deng's impressive 3-2 victory (21-14, 21-17, 20-22, 17-21, 21-5) over Chen Jing, of Taiwan, proved again that her rivals have been less troublesome than her height. When she was nine, she won a provincial championship but was barred from the regional team because she was too short. At 15, she became national champion but was denied a place on the national team because she was too short. A year later, officials relented and Deng won the doubles world title with Qiao. Now 23, Deng, who played Qiao for the individual title in Barcelona, when there were cash awards and other incentives ensuring fair play, is unsure what her rewards will be this time beyond her fourth gold medal. CL

While air conditioning has been a saviour for almost everyone in the Georgian heat, the system has been causing concern to the rhythmic gymnasts in the Stageman Coliseum in Athens. During the national championships in May, the strength of the air conditioning played havoc with the routines of the rhythmic gymnasts. Jessica Davis, the United States champion, had to spend precious moments during her trademark Swan Lake routine untangling the knots in her ribbon. The problem had still not been solved two weeks ago when two other American gymnasts came down to test the air. Happily, there have been no problems reported during the first two days of competition. Not with the air conditioning anyway. The lights are a different matter. They are too dazzling against the dark ceiling. "I have a black ball and black clubs and when I throw them up they get lost in the lights," Amina Zaripova, the 1995 world champion ribbon silver medal-winner, said. AL

Ben Anslie, who won a silver medal on Wednesday in the Laser class, is a superstitious character. Like Bjorn Borg, he does not shave during major competitions, and in addition he always goes out for a Chinese meal at the beginning of a big regatta. He started off his Olympic campaign with a visit to Hunan's Chinese restaurant, close to the Olympic marina outside Savannah. But he went back there again on Tuesday night with his sister, Fleur, and her boyfriend, as he prepared for the showdown with Robert Scheidt, the Laser world champion from Brazil. According to Fleur, Britain's brightest young competitive sailor had barbecue spare ribs, "and something and noodles — probably beef and black bean sauce." He washed it down with three Diet Cokes and was back in bed at his parents' rented house in Savannah at 9.30pm. "We normally do the Chinese before the beginning of an event," said a nervous Fleur. "But this time we thought we should do it twice." EG

Reports: Craig Lord, Andrew Longmire, Craig Lord, David Powell

HOT SPOT

Tim Henman and Neil Broad are guaranteed a silver medal at worst in the men's tennis doubles tournament. They face a difficult task in the final tonight if they are to strike gold: their opponents are the Wimbledon champions, Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, from Australia. The "Woodies", as they are commonly known, are the best double act on the circuit. TV: BBC2 from 8.30pm

Few athletes at these Olympic Games have had as little time to prepare as Karel Abdulah Bahandian, the Saudi Arabia showjumper. Two weeks ago the 26-year-old investment banker was called to the telephone at the BV Capital Bank in Boston where he works to be told that Saudi Arabia had been invited to enter a showjumping team in Atlanta, after the late withdrawal of New Zealand. Bahandian, who was brought up in Riyadh but has lived and competed in the United States for the last seven years, was asked to join the team — the first from Saudi Arabia to compete in an Olympic equestrian event — on the German-bred Missouri, a horse borrowed from another Saudi rider who had qualified it for Atlanta. "I said yes and then set about focusing myself," Bahandian said. After collecting only eight faults in the individual qualifier on Monday, he said: "We're still getting to know each other, but I've nothing to lose here: not even my team is expecting anything of me." JM

Returning to the exploits of Robin Hood. We're not talking archery, but diving, and the New Zealand judge with the same name as the former denizen of Sherwood Forest. Hood got into trouble at the world championships in Rome two years ago, when his marking was considered to be out of line with that of his fellow arbiters on a couple of occasions. He was at it again at midnight on Wednesday during a women's springboard final, won by Fu Mingxia, of China. The first sign of trouble was in the second round, when Hood gave Jenny Keirn, of the United States, a 4.5 score, 1.5 below the rest. The crowd of 14,000 booed, but Hood was unbowed. He did the same with Melissa Mosse, also from the United States, and Fu in the next round, while marking 14-year-old Anna Linberg, of Sweden, at eight points to an average of 6.5. The moment came when a diver — Vera Ilyina, of Russia — did indeed merit just 4.5, according to the average scores given. Hood's marking? 2.5. CL

Great Britain team officials left John Nuttall, their only men's 5,000 metres runner, without a bedroom and treading over three nights' lost sleep after the athletics programme began last Friday. "I feel very let down," Nuttall said. "I am still catching up on my sleep," he added, after qualifying from the first round on Wednesday, explaining that he had been forced to bed down in the communal athletes' lounge until Monday, despite requests to the team management to find him a room. "I could not go to bed until everybody else, which was about 12.30, and I was woken up in the mornings at about seven o'clock when the first guys got up. I was woken several times when people went to the toilet. I had nowhere to relax during the day, nowhere to unpack. Everybody was on my bed to watch TV. I spoke to the team administrator but he said he was sorry, nothing could be done. But, before I got a bed, other people had finished competing." DP

Reports: Jenny MacArthur, Craig Lord, David Powell

MEDAL TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze		Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	27	16	9	Finland	1	1	0
China	15	10	5	Japan	1	1	0
France	13	16	14	Norway	1	1	0
Germany	11	12	10	Sweden	1	1	1
Italy	11	7	18	Slovenia	1	1	1
Australia	7	7	9	Yugoslavia	1	1	1
Poland	8	8	8	Cuba	1	1	0
Ukraine	7	7	7	Russia	1	1	0
South Korea	4	4	4	Hong Kong	1	1	0
Romania	4	4	4	Syria	0	0	0
Hungary	4	4	4	Bulgaria	0	0	0
Greece	4	4	4	Kazakhstan	0	0	0
Switzerland	3	3	3	Slovenia	0	0	0
Cuba	3	3	3	Austria	0	0	0
Japan	3	3	3	Iran	0	0	0
Costa Rica	3	3	3	Argentina	0	0	0
New Zealand	3	3	3	Taiwan	0	0	0
Israel	3	3	3	Malaysia	0	0	0
Turkey	3	3	3	Namibia	0	0	0
Canada	3	3	3	Uzbekistan	0	0	0
Holland	3	3	3	Georgia	0	0	0
Kazakhstan	3	3	3	Israel	0	0	0
Belgium	3	3	3	Montenegro	0	0	0
North Korea	3	3	3	Mongolia	0	0	0
Spain	3	3	3	Morocco	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	3	3	3	Marshall Islands	0	0	0
South Africa	3	3	3	Nigeria	0	0	0
Ethiopia	3	3	3	Trinidad	0	0	0
Belarus	3	3	3	Uganda	0	0	0
Great Britain	3	3	3				
Czech Republic	3	3	3				
Sweden	3	3	3				

□ At end of Wednesday's events

Weather: hot Humidity: 94% Temperature: 71F

Source: IAAF, IBC, IBC and IBC

TODAY AT THE GAMES

All times BST

ARCHERY: Men's and women's teams, third round and quarter-finals (14.00), semi-finals and finals (17.15).

ATHLETICS: Men: 50km walk (12.30); 4 x 100m relay, heats (14.15); javelin, qualifying (14.30 and 16.00); 4 x 400m relay, heats (15.30); pole vault, final (22.00); 4 x 100m relay, semi-finals (00.30); 4 x 400m relay, semi-finals (01.00); 3,000m steeplechase, final (02.05); Women: 4 x 100m relay, heats (15.00); shot, final (23.55);

4 x 100m relay, semi-finals (00.00); long jump, final (00.15); 4 x 400m relay, heats (01.30); 10,000m, final (02.30).

BASEBALL: Bronze medal match (19.00) and final (00.00).

BASKETBALL: Men: Play-offs (15.00, 17.00, 20.00 and 00.00). Women: Semi-finals (01.00 and 03.00).

BOXING: Semi-finals: Flyweight, featherweight, light-welterweight, light-middleweight, light-heavyweight, super-heavyweight (from 01.00).

CANOEING: Sprint semi-finals (all 500m): Men's K1 (14.00); men's C1 (14.30); women's

K1 (14.50); men's K2 (15.10); men's C2 (15.30); women's K2 (15.50).

DIVING: Men's platform, semi-finals (16.30) and final (01.00).

FOOTBALL: Third-place play-off (01.00).

GYMNASTICS: Women's individual rhythmic, preliminaries (15.00), group rhythmic finals (20.00).

HANDBALL: Men's play-offs (15.00, 17.00, 00.00 and 02.00) and semi-finals (19.30 and 21.30).

HOCKEY: Men's play-off for fifth place (13.30), bronze medal match (22.00) and final (00.30).

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING: Women's team, free routine (22.00).

TENNIS: Women's singles, bronze medal match and final; men's doubles, final (all 16.00).

VOLLEYBALL: Men's play-offs (17.00) and semi-finals (00.30).

WRESTLING: Freestyle: Under 52kg, under 62kg, under 74kg, under 90kg and under 130kg classification matches (14.30); finals (20.30).

YACHTING: Soling medal matches (17.00).

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

BBC1

7.0-9.0am Olympic Breakfast, 9.05am-12.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 1.40-5.35pm Olympic Grandstand, 7.0-8.30pm Essential Olympics, 10.20pm-4.25am Olympic Grandstand.

BBC2

5.35-7.0pm Olympic Grandstand, 8.30-10.20pm Olympic Grandstand, 12.25-4.30am Olympic Grandstand.

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OLYMPIC GAMES

Ainslie's ill-fated strategy backed by team-mates

FROM DAVID MILLER IN SAVANNAH

BRITAIN'S sailing team are united behind Ben Ainslie, the silver medal-winner in Laser class, who lost his chance of an Olympic title at 19 through disqualification in his final race. They are unanimous that he had to do it to get to the start-line neck-and-neck with Robert Scheidt, the Brazilian champion, rather than concede advantage. Both were disqualified, giving Scheidt the title.

Great sailors come from little boats. Ainslie is the most exciting prospect in British sailing since Chris Law. Unlimited horizons lie ahead, yet he must not let this success warp his judgment — nor will he. For the present, he has decided to stay with Lasers, despite the attraction of larger keel-boat racing.

"He had no alternative," Ian Rhodes, whose chances with David Williams, in the Tornado class, sank because of their own errors, said of Ainslie's tactics at a celebration party given by Craig Reedie, the chairman of the British Olympic Association. "When Scheidt turned for the line, in the manoeuvre during the last minute before the gun, Ben had to stay with him. If not, had the start been clean, Ben risked letting him get away."

Claudio Bickarck, Scheidt's coach, thought that Ainslie might have been better to have ignored Scheidt, in the tense



"covering" of the match-racing start strategy, and go flat out for his own race. Ainslie, who had been the more aggressive of the two, and technically had "won" the first two starts that were recalled, disagrees. "If I'd done that, he would have shadowed me," he said.

Ainslie admitted he had much to learn. Asked for detail, he replied "That!", referring to the climax to this regatta — an experience he will remember for the rest of his career. It could prove hugely beneficial. In one moment, he became wiser and older by years. Ben did well under such pressure throughout the regatta," Scheidt, world champion for the past two years, said appreciatively.

Ainslie said that Scheidt's manoeuvre, being the windward (up-wind) boat on the

final tack, would have become illegal had they crossed the line after, instead of before, the gun, such as the split-second helming decisions at close quarters. Ainslie could not ease or bear away to slow down, being the leeward (down-wind) boat because of another on his leeward side as they headed in a mass of boats for the line as if on a crowded escalator.

"I loved it, all the adrenalin running," Ainslie said. "At the next Olympics, hopefully, maybe I'll be more mature, I won't get so heated."

In the long term, he would like to move to the big boats, to have the chance to compete in the Admiral's Cup, the America's Cup, the Whitbread Round the World Race. "I don't have to rush," he said, "and anyway, there are so many good sailors already out there."

The overall performance of the sailing team has been a lesson to most other British sports. An accurate analysis of the 1992 regatta by Mike McIntyre, head of Olympic preparation, has enabled the team to raise its performance in one of the most complex sports, where meteorology and oceanography can play a key part. For instance, two specialists spent two weeks, working ten-hour days in inflatable boats, studying the tidal movements at the Savannah course, seldom previously used for prolonged fleet racing. In Wednesday's race, Ainslie was being pushed by a three knot spring tide towards the line, against the wind in a choppy sea.

The Soling team works under a considerable handicap. Nowhere in Britain is there a free launching facility, an operation that costs £50 each way, and must be used every two or three days, even when practising, to keep the hull clean.

Rod Carr, the executive manager, would like to establish seven or eight sailing centres around the country where such facilities would be available to members of the team. "We don't need exclusive use," he said, "but we need areas, relatively tide-free, that are within reach of any potential Olympic competitor."

Many of the team are still part time. Sue Carr, for instance, racing a 470, lost £130 for every day's leave of absence as a teacher employed by Derbyshire County Council. Barry Parkin, a member of the Soling crew and a commercial manager when not sailing, said: "You cannot do both nowadays satisfactorily. We've managed to sail for 20 weeks of the last seven months. Most of the other top 12 nations are full-time. If they have jobs, they are in the sailing industry."



Kanu scores Nigeria's late equaliser to take their Olympic football semi-final with Brazil into extra time

Kanu's golden goal signals breakthrough for Nigeria

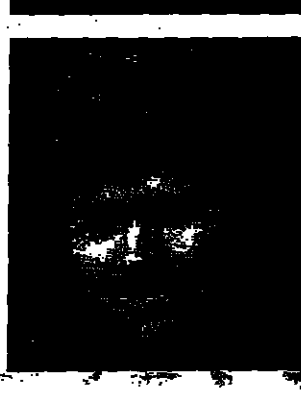
ANDREW LONGMORE

Olympic football is a game separated from the rest of the world. The tournament has been kept at arm's length from Atlanta and if the latter stages are appropriately staged in the town of Athens, about 50 miles north east of Atlanta, that is about as close as football gets to touching Olympic consciousness. No one remembers who won Olympic gold.

Even within the tournament there is a tournament between those who care and those who do not. The Italians returned home, beaten by, among others, Ghana, and accused of not trying by the rest of their Olympic team. However, nobody in the 78,000-strong crowd fortunate enough to witness the 4-3 victory that put Nigeria through to the final against Argentina and ended Brazil's passionate search for their first gold medal could have doubted the emotional intensity of the occasion for one second.

When Nwankwo Kanu, the gangling young Nigeria captain, equalised 30 seconds from time, then slammed home the golden-goal winner 3½ minutes into extra time, green and white shirts were hurried into the band of swaying, singing, Nigerian supporters, the rhythm of the drums quickened to a celebratory beat and the players danced unashamedly to its tempo, naked to the waist. "The minister came to congratulate us," Kanu said later. With a political timing worthy

celebrates an African triumph



celebrates an African triumph

of Bill Clinton, the whole Nigerian government appeared on the pitch to claim the credit.

In the opposite corner of the Sanford stadium, a line of the world's finest young players trooped dejectedly away: Ronaldo — known by his nickname, Ronaldinho, for this tournament — Juninho, Ze Elias and Flavio, whose two goals had helped to give Brazil a 3-1 lead at half-time. "Bronze is nothing," Juninho, the Middlesbrough midfielder player, said. "Only the gold matters."

Like Japan's seismic defeat of Brazil in the group matches, the joy of the victory reflected the emergence of a footballing nation as much as thoughts of Olympic gold. Tactical innocence and lack of heart — those

were the two faults stopping the best of the African nations from reaching the Europeans and the South Americans. Yet it was precisely those qualities that, in contrast to the last-minute defeat by Italy on Nigeria's last venture on American soil — two years ago in the World Cup — that marked the difference between the two sides on Wednesday night, turning a 3-1 deficit with 13 minutes left, and a penalty already missed, into riotous victory 17 minutes later. Nigeria had learnt from the 1-0 defeat by Brazil in the group match. Brazil, even with the surefooted guidance of Mario Zagallo, had not.

The Brazilians did too much defending. "Jo Bonfrere, Nigeria's Dutch coach, said, 'but we changed it in the second half, pushing defenders out to play as attacking midfielders. It was all or nothing in the last ten minutes.' Not for the first time in their history, Brazil sat back on their heels, content to wait for the chance to counter-attack. Three times in the second half, Ronaldinho, a 19-year-old recently transferred from PSV Eindhoven to Barcelona for £13 million, burst down the right. Three times, his cross missed its target.

Zagallo, thinking the game was won, took off Juninho and brought on the more prosaic Rivaldo. The initiative was lost and the weakness of the Brazil defence exposed, despite the presence of the World Cup defenders, Aldair and Roberto Carlos, two of the three over-

age players. Victor Ikpeba, of AS Monaco, made it 3-2, before Kanu shed his anonymity to slide home the equaliser 32 seconds from time.

In the interview room, Zagallo, 65, grey hair thinning, bespectacled eyes looking straight ahead like a man searching for the end of the road, praised the strength of his opponents and bemoaned the shortage of good defenders in his own country. "The problem is in the schools," he said. "Every Brazilian boy wants to be a forward. None want to play in defensive positions." Defenders, as small boys instinctively know, do not command £13 million transfer fees.

Bonfrere could afford a measure of satisfaction: "We knew from the first game [when Japan beat Brazil] that there is not any more a big gap between teams like Brazil and teams from Asia and Africa. It is now just a matter of tactical planning and the way players carry out those plans on the pitch."

Off the pitch, the Nigerians have been beset with problems, from critics in the press to substandard accommodation. The team are housed in the Econolodge hotel in Athens, not quite fitting for Olympic finalists. "I told my players to forget all the problems for 90 minutes, then we will think about a new set of problems," Bonfrere said. An impressive Argentina side will pose plenty tomorrow, even to the conquerors of Brazil.

British riders fail to weather storm

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR

IN A team showjumping competition almost as dramatic as the Atlanta thunderstorm that saturated the arena and caused a lengthy delay, Germany, the favourites for the gold medal, forged into the lead, with Ireland, France, Brazil, Spain and the United States all looking possible medal contenders as the event approached the halfway stage.

For the British riders, drawn last, the opening of the heavens matched their own despairing mood after a dismal opening round had left them struggling to finish in the top half. With John Whitaker, the fourth team rider, still waiting to go in the first round when the storm broke, Nick Skelton's eight faults on Showtime was the best of the three British scores.

Nineteen teams contested the event, for which Linda Allen, the innovative course designer, had devised an intimidating 13-fence course. "Big, technical and gutsy," was the verdict of Ronnie Massarella, the Britain team manager.

It rode every bit as tough as it looked. Only a handful of riders had clear rounds, among them the European champion, Peter Charles, of Ireland, on the inexperienced Benetton.

Germany had a dramatic start when Frank Stedeha, the world champion, fell and cut his wrist at fence nine, the Southfork Ranch gate (inspired by the television series, *Dallas*), but swiftly compensated for his loss with clear rounds from their next two

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Simon Barnes 38

riders. Skelton, the first British rider, who had been concerned about Showtime's ability to handle the water jump, faulted there and also at 12a, the first part of the Hawaiian Bamboo Double.

"I felt I was a bit unlucky," Skelton said. "She was jumping well and didn't deserve those two fences." There was worse in store. Michael Whitaker's Two Step, who has been off form from the start of the event, collected 16 faults. Malcolm Pyrah, the team trainer, said there was nothing wrong with the horse — "he's just faded."

A disconsolate Whitaker, unable to reconcile the performance here with Two Step's successes in the Calgary Grand Prix and European championships last September, said: "He's just not going. He's spooking at everything." When Geoff Billington, the big hope of the team after his clear round in the qualifier on Monday, collected 12 faults, four of them at the water, any lingering chance of a medal had gone. "I was trying to get a good stride to the water but he kept backing off," Billington said. The mistake unsettled the normally careful 17s Otto, who then faulted at the last two fences.

While British riders struggled to come to terms with the course, Ireland, seeking their first Olympic showjumping medal, were lifted into the top three at the halfway stage by a superb round from their fourth rider, Eddie Macken, on his reserve horse, Schalkhaar. The Spaniards, improved out of all recognition by their British trainer, David Broome, moved into contention after a faultless round from Fernando Sarasaola, on Ennio.

Men's team ends on high note

Great Britain 4
India 3

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE men's hockey match between Great Britain and India was mistakenly listed on the television here yesterday as the final, evoking memories of 1948. Then India beat Britain 4-0; the tables were turned yesterday, albeit in a play-off for seventh place.

India started the better, scoring through Baljit Dhillon in the third minute, missing a good chance three minutes later, and scoring again from a penalty stroke by Ramandeep Singh after Shaw had brought Britain level. Lastlet got Britain back on terms in the 44th minute, converting a pass from McGuire. A shaky Indian defence then conceded two more goals during a period of sustained pressure. Wyatt put the finishing touch to a short corner and Mayer scored from a long corner. In the dying seconds, Pargat Singh reduced the lead from a short corner. India's eighth position was their lowest in the history of the Games.

GREAT BRITAIN: D Luckes, J Wyatt, J Hall, P McGuire, N Taylor, S Smith, C Meyer, R Garcia, J Lee, J Lastlet (captain), N Thompson. Substitutes used: C Goss, D Hall, J Shaw, S Hasle. INDIA: A Edwards, Pargat Singh (captain), A Aldrin, Harpreet Singh, Riaz Mohammed, Ramandeep Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Baljit Singh, Baljit Dhillon, Sanyal Kumar, G Panna. Substitutes used: Dhanraj Pillay, Rahul Singh. Umpires: R St Rose (Trinidad) and E Ruiz (Argentina) 21

Norway savours genuine article

Twenty years after Sweden last won an Olympic athletics gold medal, and 40 years after Norway's, the Scandinavian neighbours were celebrating victories within half an hour of each other on Wednesday evening. Norway louder than Sweden.

Whereas Vegbjorn Rodal, who won the men's 800 metres, was born, raised and trained in Norway, Ludmila Engquist, the women's 100 metres hurdles champion, is a former Russian who has

David Powell on the differing routes taken by two athletes on the road to Olympic gold

served a drugs ban and was cleared to compete here for Sweden only four weeks ago. A blue-eyed blonde she may be, but Sweden is not convinced she is one of them.

Before she married her Swedish manager, Engquist's name was Narozhilenko, winner of the gold medal at the 1991 world championships. In 1993 she was suspended for

four years after failing a drugs test but reinstated when her former husband admitted spiking her food with steroids to avenge her leaving him.

A Russian court cleared Narozhilenko and the International Amateur Athletic Federation, saving itself the expense of a court case, allowed her back after 2½ years. On the whole, the Swedish media has supported her, saying that she was a victim of her husband's jealousy, but there is scepticism within the sport in Sweden.

These Olympics are the first time that Engquist has competed for Sweden, though she has been living in the suburbs of Stockholm since November 1993. Normally she would have needed three years before obtaining Swedish citizenship but, in a move reminiscent of Britanny Budd a British passport for the 1994 Olympics, she was granted it on June 20.

However, without Russia's approval last month, she would have been barred from the Games under International Olympic Committee rules. This is her third successive Olympics, each time in different national colours. In 1992 it was the Soviet Union, in 1992 the Unified Team (the dismembered former Soviet Union, minus the Baltic states) and now Sweden.

Rodal's development has been strictly Norwegian, run-

ning for his country in European and world junior championships before graduating to the senior team. Ironically, he may not have won had another Scandinavian country, Denmark, been as flexible in granting citizenship as Sweden was with Engquist.

Wilson Kipketer, Kenyan-born but resident in Denmark for six years, is the 800 metres world champion, but was unable to take part here. Denmark has made him wait the normal seven years for citizenship.



Engquist cleared to compete for Sweden

Fourth Russian fails drugs test

FROM CRAIG LORD AND JOHN GOODBODY

IN A fresh spate of drug revelations yesterday, a fourth Russian was disqualified after testing positive for bromantan, Ireland was reprimanded for failing to "take care" of its athletes after one of the country's runners was found to have taken a banned painkiller, and three swimmers were said to have been caught smoking marijuana.

Martina Trandenkova, 29, who was fifth in the 100 metres, became the fourth Russian, and the fifth athlete at the Games, to have been found to have taken bromantan, a stimulant that is believed to help the body tolerate high temperatures.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced three days ago that the substance was a "new" drug that was covered by a "related substances" clause in its rules. However, Michele Verdier, spokeswoman for the IOC, said yesterday: "This substance was declared illegal on June 5."

A Russian appeal against the disqualification of Andrei Kornecov, a swimmer, and Zafar Guliyov, a Greco-Roman wrestler, is still proceeding. There has been no appeal yet in the cases of Nina Zhivanevskaya, another swimmer, and Trandenkova, who was a member of the 4x100 metres relay team that won silver at Barcelona.

Verdier's rebuke to Irish officials followed confirmation

that Marie MacMahon, who finished fourteenth in the 5,000 metres, had tested positive for Phenylpropionparine Robitussine, a painkiller said to be found in cough medicine. She escaped a ban, however.

Verdier said that she had "no information at this time" about suggestions that three swimmers had been caught with marijuana.

GONE WITH THE WIND.



MINI

France enjoy benefit of de Gaulle's vision

It was General de Gaulle who laid the foundation for France's success in these Games. Thirteen gold medals, a stark contrast to the one earned by Great Britain in Atlanta, are evidence aplenty of the success of de Gaulle's plans.

In the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, France failed to gain any victories and there was a cartoon printed in a French newspaper that September of de Gaulle ready to leave for Italy complaining: "In this country, if I don't do everything myself..."

De Gaulle may not have competed at those Games, but he was insistent that his vision of the excellence and nobility of France should have been besmirched. In 1961, he appointed a Minister of Sport and established a structure that has allowed France, over the last three summer Olympi-

pics, to achieve better results than Britain. In the winter Olympics since 1964, France have been embarrassingly superior.

One central difference between the two countries is that France has a Minister of Sport, Guy Druet, the 1976 Olympic 110 hurdles champion, who has a budget and power, whereas Britain has a Minister for Sport, Iain Sprouat, a former cricket test captain, who has neither. Successive French sports ministers since the Sixties have been able to support the governing bodies of various sports without having to involve the separate bureaucracy of the Sports Council. The chairman of the new United Kingdom Sports Council is Sir Ian MacLaurin, the chairman of Tesco, but a man usually able to give only one day a month to sorting out the

John Goodbody looks at the reason Great Britain's nearest neighbour is enjoying such success in Atlanta



THE MISSING MEDALS

evident problem in Britain, even if he were able to do so.

In France, the Government takes direct responsibility for sporting performance. It also forces everyone taking part in an activity to join the national governing body and pay to be a licensed competitor. Out of the population of 55 million, 12 million are registered sportsmen and

sportswomen. This brings in valuable revenue for the sports governing bodies.

In Britain, there is no obligation for people taking part in many sports, such as football and tennis, to be a member of the governing body.

Jean-Francoise Renault, a leading journalist on *L'Equipe*, the French daily

sports newspaper, said: "It is much better to have a system of having a minister with power and money. However, like Britain we have the same problems with so many youngsters giving up sport in their teens. Don't forget we only have two hours of sport for each week for every child in school." This is the same amount as recommended by the British Government in the National Curriculum.

Jean Richard Germon, the director of elite training for the French Olympic Committee, said: "State aid is absolutely indispensable. Without it, we could not prepare properly for these Games. Money is paid directly from the state to help subsidise coaches in judo, in which France have 494,000 registered competitors. There are 72 fully-paid coaches and development officers in most of the 92 départements." Britain has three coaches and four part-time development officers. France won eight medals, including three gold, in judo in these Games; Britain took none.

Whereas, in Britain, competitors receive subsidiary from the Sports Aid Foundation, in France it goes through the individual federations, with leading competitors receiving similar amounts according to their ability. The elite receive about £1,250 per month. However, at these Games, the French, unlike the British, directly reward competitors who reach the podium. A gold medal is worth £32,000, a silver £15,000 and a bronze £10,000.

When asked if the French method is better than in Britain, Germon replied: "It is the system. The proof is that it works." Britain's system is not working.

AMY SANCETTA

DIVING

Fu establishes monopoly of the board game

YOU will remember Fu Mingxia. She gave us the abiding image of the Barcelona Games: the Chinese high diver, a waif in a trance of concentration silhouetted against the Montjuïc sky. There she won the platform diving gold medal at the age of 13, and we hoped then to see a good deal more of her.

We have thirty pounds more, to be precise, plus an extra inch of height that takes her to 5ft 3in and nine stone. She won the platform event here in Atlanta and then went for the springboard competition as well: the diver's double. In Barcelona, she was too slight a thing to generate power from the springboard.

Well, four years ago she was a little girl, half-bewildered by her own gift. These days, she is halfway to being a woman, and a woman of power.

Not that you would know, if you caught her face in repose, which admittedly is something you hardly ever do. I have seen such a face a million times on Hong Kong ferries: pleasant, animated, commonplace. A short flop of black hair with a straightish parting. The gossip and laughter of such people filled my ears on a thousand Hong Kong journeys, and Fu would fit into the crowds without turning a head. Though the big, lopsided smile that erupts without warning might make you smile back.

But in competition, you cannot take your eyes from her. Spookily composed, self-hypnotised. And utterly with-

SIMON BARNES



Atlanta sketch

out fear. She began her final set of five dives with an inward dive: throwing down the gauntlet, for most competitors like to get their eye in with something less alarming.

Safe options? The words have no meaning for Fu. I have watched her diving from the ten-metre platform: unusually, and frequently, she gets so close to the edge that her fringe flicks the board on her way down. Yet she has never bashed her head on the platform.

Her confidence in her mastery of that narrow corridor of space is complete; and that, not the tumblers, is what diving is all about. At this level, anyone can turn 3½ somersaults in the air. But to do them so precisely that you hit the water like an arrow, that is diving. A test of courage and spatial understanding. It is an

arcane way to seek perfection, but when it comes it is obvious: a different sound as diver hits water. Not a double splash and a dramatic cloud of spray; a monosyllabic rip.

So there stands Fu, backwards on the springboard. No other competitor, it seems, gets so close to the edge. Of the springboard, of everything. Not as a matter of daring; it is just her natural place. The schoolgirl flop has gone: the hair is now swept back from the forehead in a brief, black and dripping mane.

And the pleasant face has turned inward, every aspect of body and mind turned to the mastering of space. "I am very well prepared psychologically," she said afterwards, when we asked her about her edge. "I was not concentrating on gold. I was concentrating on each dive."

She has lost the little-girl-gymnast's body. She has added the dimension of power to the grace she always possessed. The fourth round was where it told. It was a tight competition until then. Fu gave us a reverse 2½ somersault, piked: soaring high to spin back in and attack the board. It was the round where each of her rivals told herself: this is my chance, seize it.

And missed. Not Fu. The aerial gymnastics were performed in a flash, and she had all the time in the world to transform herself into an arrow. A soft, decisive rip. And the rest could squabble about second. Fu becomes the first woman to do the diver's double since Ingrid Kramer, of Germany, in 1960; she, too, was 17. No diver has won more than four golds, or more than five medals in total. Will you be back in Sydney? Fu smiled. She is not retiring. Just taking each dive as it comes.



Fu's grace and power were evident as she captured the springboard gold

"In 1992, I was a little girl," she said. "I am older and I am heavier now, and I use different strategies that work to my advantage. I have also grown a lot in terms of experience - and that is why the gold medal means a lot to me this time."

She won the first on talent alone, almost a passive victim of her own ability. But this time she knew what it was

about. Some of us achieve grown-upness by a love affair or an adventure abroad; others, though not many, with a gold medal.

And the lonely search for perfection continues. It is a hard, often brutal way of life. No one gets that good at anything on talent alone. The routines for flexibility are like a daily stretching on the rack.

with your trainer pushing, pulling and, in extremis, standing on top of you. What is the worst exercise you have to do, Miss Fu?

"The exercise I hate most is the one I don't do well," she said. There, in a line, is this girl, the woman with three diving golds. The eyes, once again, but briefly, two small stones.

Coleman no longer cuts the mustard

AFTER 13 late nights in a row (a figure that exceeds even the wildest excesses of my second year at university), I have begun to tire. They arrive any time after I am and they argue incessantly.

"Excellent," says the voice of the Olympic purist, taking up position on my left shoulder as David Coleman announces that coming soon are three heats of the men's 5000 metres. "That'll take us up nicely to the women's springboard at 3.30am, with perhaps a little live basketball to follow. Anyone fancy a cup of tea?"

"Go to bed, bonehead," says the voice of the pragmatic patriot on my right shoulder. "Christie, Regis, Ridgion... the only way you're going to see a medal in this stadium is in your dreams. Night, night."

On Wednesday night the voice of the Olympic purist prevailed until the excitement of the women's 100 metres hurdles final and the triple jump produced a natural hiatus at around 2.15am. "Still to come..." enthused an eager Coleman, "three heats of the men's..." "Bed," hissed the voice in my right ear, "go to bed." Well, you can only be an Olympic purist for so long.

By that time, thanks to an early start to the semi-finals of the women's 100 metres hurdles, I had already enjoyed 3½ hours of BBC coverage, coverage which I am reliably informed is superior to anything being shown in the United States. The question is, could it have been even better? I think it could.

After his inevitable failure



MATTHEW BOND ON THE TELEVISION MARATHON

in the second round of the 200 metres, Coleman accurately pointed out that Linford Christie had fallen victim to "the next generation". But what happens to sprinters applies to commentators too and, after ten summer Olympics, Coleman should follow Christie's example and retire. His commentary is simply not what it was. He should make way and let us remember him as the voice of athletics.

His natural successor is in place, in the authoritative shape of Stuart Storey, who has had a cool, calm and, above all, accurate Olympics. If Storey finds Merlene Ottey where we expect to see Juliet Cuthbert, it is because the athletes have changed, not because he is muddled up. He is also prepared to mix it a bit.

After a cracking finish to the final of the women's 100 metres hurdles he tossed in the suggestion that it was time the height of the women's hurdles was raised. That's not a new idea, of course, but it was the right talking point at the right time.

Alongside him, Paul Dickenson has had a pretty decent Games too. Early yesterday morning it was Inessa Kravets who came to his aid with a huge triple jump. "Beamon-esque" might have been pushing it, but we know what he meant.

Both Storey and Dickenson, of course, are former Olympians. Storey in the high hurdles, Dickenson in the hammer - but they are both Olympians of some vintage now. Top priority must be to get some younger blood into the commentary box alongside them.

There is no shortage of candidates. Daley Thompson sounds quite promising, when

he is being serious, while Steve Cram and Tim Hutchings are both doing a good job at Euronews. It is also far from inconceivable that Seb Coe might be looking for a new job next spring. A female voice is also long overdue, in which case, if Sally Gunnell does decide to call it a day, a new job could be waiting.

The problem is that the former athletes of today continue to make huge fortunes from marketing tomorrow. But just as the country needs to invest in the future of British athletics, so the BBC needs to invest in the future of its commentary team. It could be cheque book time.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 35

ABALONE

(a) A gastropod mollusc of the genus *Haliotis*, used for food; an egg-shell or sea-ear. From the Spanish *abulón*, Monterey Indian *abulón*, in the same sense.

CACUMINAL

(a) Of sounds: produced with the tip of the tongue "inverted" or curved upwards towards the hard palate. From the Latin *cacumen* (tip, transferred into *cacuminal* in *Phonetics*). "The term *cacuminal* (or *cerebral*, or *inverted*) is applied to a frontal orientation, in which the point of the tongue is turned up and back."

DYBBUK

(a) In Jewish folklore, the malevolent spirit of a dead person that enters and controls the body of a living person until exorcised. From the Hebrew *dibbuk*, verb *dabak* to cling or cleave. "An old Jew who muttered jargon into as rabbi's beard as if saying a spell against Dybbuks."

(b) Of or belonging to the early type of man indicated by the skull of the late Pleistocene period found at Boskop, in the Transvaal, South Africa. "The Boskop man was of the Neanderthal race, but more advanced in intelligence."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rb4! (1... R7b4? Works equally well) 1... axb4 2 Qxb4 Kxb3 3 Bb8! Kf5 4 Be2 mate. Without the initial rook sacrifice, Black would be able to play 4... Qg4 in the final position.

RADIO CHOICE

For Sunday, read Friday

The Sunday Format. Radio 4, 11pm.

Thanks to radio technology, we now have a Sunday newspaper - weekend supplements included - on Friday. Current affairs topics discussed include: media treatment of Africa's human disasters; a firm of pornography for the advanced monkey's climbing trees; you'll get a sore neck. Photographs hint you need a good eye for images that are potentially the defining icons of the coming weekend. Social affairs: under the headline "Bouncing Czechs" (the question is posed: why is it that Czechoslovakian men are so reluctant to wear underwear?) Shopping guide: be careful when buying a dressing gown from trappist monks. You may end up with a tractor.

Mining the Archive. Radio 3, 3pm.

Director of the Edinburgh Festival for five of its 50 years, Sir John Drummond selects highlights from his first half-century. We have come to expect anecdotes from him and he does not disappoint us. Nor are we disappointed in the matter of spoken word extracts which he picks from the BBC archives, including Beethoven explaining why he originally cold-showered the Edinburgh Festival, then in the characteristic Olympian fashion, relented. In the first of four programmes, the items Sir John chooses include Beethoven's *Consolation of the House* overture, the first movement of his *Quartet Op 59 No 3* and the "choral" symphony. Peter Daville

RADIO 1	WORLD SERVICE
<p>FM Stereo, 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00am News, 10.00am Golden Hour 11.30am Radio 1 Roadshow, live from the Proms, Park in Southend 12.30pm Lisa 12.45pm News, 1.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00pm Mark Goodier 7.00pm Essential Selection 10.00pm One in the Jungle 12.00pm Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00am Annie Nightingale 5.00am Charlie Jordan</p>	<p>All times in BST. News on the hour 6.30am Europe Today 6.45am Folk Routes 6.50am The Insider's Guide 7.00am Olympic Sportsworld 7.10am Top of the Pops 7.15am The World's Best Pick of the Week 9.15am Music Review 9.45am Poems by Post 10.05am Business Report 10.15am Focus on Farm 10.45am Sports Roundup 11.30am BBC English 11.45am On the Shelf 12.30pm Meridian 1.15pm Britain Today 1.30pm Science in Action 3.05pm Outlook 3.30pm Multitask Alternative 4.05pm Sports Roundup 4.15pm BBC English 4.30pm News in German 5.30pm Business Report 5.45pm Britain Today 6.10pm World Today 6.25pm Spotlight 6.30pm News in German 7.30pm Focus on Faith 8.01pm Poems '96 10.05pm Business Report 10.15pm Britain Today 10.30pm For and Against 11.30pm The New Europe 11.45am Sports Roundup 12.10pm Spotlight 12.15pm The Insider's Guide 12.25pm Book Choice 12.30pm Multitask Alternative 1.30pm Seven Days 1.45pm Britain Today 2.30pm Atlanta Live 2.55pm Words of Faith 3.30pm Atlanta Live 4.05pm Atlanta Live 4.30pm The Vintage Chart Show</p>
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RADIO 5 LIVE	VIRGIN RADIO
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9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. The novelist Joan Barrie (r)	5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast
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10.15 On This Day (LW)	7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
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10.45 An Act of Worship (LW)	8.00 In the Dock: Bank's The series in which Sue Cameron examines some of Britain's key institutions and professions (2/6)
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2.00 News You and Yours, with Chris Chu	10.00 The World Tonight, with Richard Long
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1.40 The Archers (1.55 Shipping Forecast)	11.25 Fourth Column, with Bill Tidy
2.00 News The Classic Serial: The Baruchster Chronicles: Dr Thomas, by Anthony Powell, with John Wood and Dick McKern (2/3) (r)	11.45 The Big Umbrella. Leading theatre's present radical essays on critical issues. This week's reader r. Nigel Lewis (1/5)
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	12.30 The Late Book: The Secret History. William Hope reads The Secret of the Matter (5/15)
	12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service



GOLF 32

Montgomery up for count in Swedish farce

British look for golden finale

Relay squad plan surprise for Americans

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTA

THE Great Britain athletics team, facing its least successful Olympic Games for 20 years, will be looking to Roger Black to lead a salvage operation when the 4 x 400 metres relay is held over the next two days. The event holds Britain's last realistic hope, albeit a faint one, of a victory, but the team is, without doubt, the strongest the nation has fielded.

What greater irony could there be than for the United States, which has been barely able to see beyond itself at these Olympics, to be beaten in the last of the track events? On home ground, in front of record crowds, it has dominated the top step of the podium and the presumption here is that Michael Johnson will anchor the four-lap team to the perfect climax for the American public tomorrow.

When Butch Reynolds, the 400 metres world record-holder, said in June that victory was "a formality, we should win by 30 or 40 metres," he was perhaps tempting fate. Since then, Reynolds has been injured, failing to reach the final of the individual event, and Johnson apart, the performances of Britain's 400 metres runners compare favourably with those in the United States squad.

Black, in winning the silver medal, finished comfortably clear of Alvin Harrison, the second athlete from the home nation, and Iwan Thomas was just behind him in fifth place, and although Duane Ladejo, the European champion, is out of form, Britain has Mark Richardson, fifth in the world championships last year, and Jamie Baulch, aged only 23 but already the fifth-fastest Briton ever, to come in for the final. Had it not been for the towering presence of Johnson, there would be no shadow over optimism that Britain might avoid only its sixth Olympics, out of 23, without an athletics gold medal.

Although Britain will not name its quartet for each round until the deadline, one hour in advance, Black's comment yesterday "that there is no point in going out on to the track unless you are going out to win," suggests that the team will be structured, and briefed tactically, to gamble on victory rather than play safe for silver medals. If the Americans remain unflustered, they should remember two precedents in which victory was expected but Britain, as the squad

Redmond and John Regis had run legs two and three. Kriss Akabusi was three metres down at the final changeover. Sparing the British men's team from returning home without gold, Akabusi came past Antonio Pettigrew, who had beaten Black to the individual title a few days earlier, two strides from line.

Be in no doubt that relays are highly-regarded integral part of the sport. Black described the victory as "more fulfilling for me than anything I have achieved on my own as an athlete."

At the British Olympic trials in June, Black set a British record on a landmark occasion for British 400 metres running. "I have looked forward to this day for a long time, four guys under 45 seconds," he said. "We are going to have a great relay team and that is important." He probably did not imagine then just how important it would become.

Unford Christie's exit in the second round of the 200 metres on Wednesday marked the end of his championship career in individual events. All that is left for him now is the 4 x 100 metres relay. Given the disappointing Olympics that Christie, Colin Jackson and Tony Jarrett have had and that Ian Mackie, who reached the 100 metres semi-finals, has returned home injured, a place on the podium appears little short of an impossibility.

T-shirts said after the second of them, "kicked their butts". The first was in 1936, at the Berlin Olympics, when Fredie Wolff, Godfrey Rampling, Bill Roberts and Godfrey Brown left the United States trailing by two seconds in the silver medal position, despite the fact that, based on personal best times, the Americans should have won by 20 metres. At the 1991 world championships in Tokyo, the Americans pressed self-destruct by not selecting Johnson, the world No 1 for two years, because he did not contest the 400 metres in the trials. Black, traditionally the anchorman, surprised everybody outside the camp by coming out to run the lead leg. The tactic was devised to unsettle the Americans, who like to lead from start. Black opened a gap, but, after Derek



Jamal Hassan, of Qatar, makes an unwanted splash in his unavailing attempt to qualify for the final of the 3,000 metres steeplechase

Lewis's right to run divides nation

FROM JOHN GOODBODY

THE controversy over whether Carl Lewis should run the last leg of the sprint relay in order to end his Olympic career with a record ten gold medals has become a matter of national debate in the United States.

For many Americans, Lewis personifies track and field athletics. Ever since he emulated Jesse Owens by taking four titles at the 1984 Olympic Games, Lewis has symbolised the United States' supremacy in the premier Olympic sport.

Because of the popularity of these Games, which are attracting record-breaking television audiences, many athletics enthusiasts want to use the opportunity of Lewis's farewell to promote their sport as much as they can.

However, Lewis finished eighth in the 100 metres final of the US trials and therefore

has no direct right to be picked for the 4 x 100m relay. Three weeks ago, he did not even turn up for a relay training camp in North Carolina.

All eight runners from the final at the trials were invited to the camp and Erv Hunt, the US coach, is understandably reluctant to include Lewis, even if the athlete has run the final leg of the Olympic winning relay in the past three Games.

"For me to put a person on the team that does not want to come to practise when these other athletes are out there busting their backsides, I don't think is fair," Hunt said.

Jon Drummond, a member of the relay team, said of Lewis: "He won the long jump. That's not the 100 metres. He got beaten but-naked in the trials."

"What is it that gives Carl the right to a tenth gold medal and deny somebody else the

chance of fulfilling their dreams?"

Dennis Mitchell, 30, who was a member of the successful quartet in 1992 and is another contender for the squad this year after beating Lewis at the US trials, said: "Carl has had his moment. Let me have mine."

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Atlanta guide 36
Nigeria's joy 37
Simon Barnes 38

Mike Marsh, another relay team member who belongs to Lewis's Santa Monica Track Club, is denying that he will step aside, but he said: "It's a very difficult question for me to answer. It puts me in a tremendously difficult spot."

The issue has split the United States team. Michael Johnson, who risks being up-

staged if Lewis were to run in the relay, surprisingly said: "I always believe you put your best four out there. Seeing we dropped the baton last year [at the world championships, without Lewis] 'if I was the coach, I would put Carl on the relay.'"

The pressure on Hunt is likely to mount before the semi-finals today, when the coach could change his lineup. Perhaps the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) will use its influence to get Lewis into the team. Perhaps Nike will offer a withdrawal fee to allow the sponsors' favourite athlete to run and make history by becoming the first competitor in any sport to win ten Olympic golds.

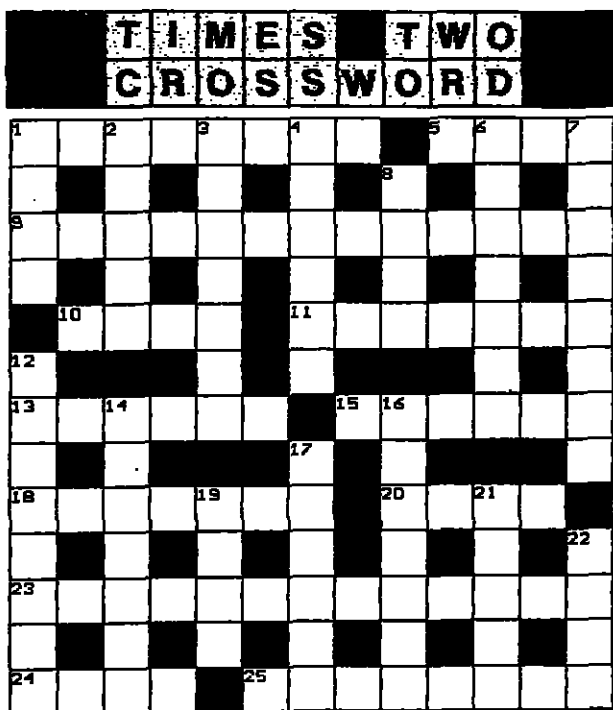
Perhaps there may even be a political intervention. Ron Wilson, the US representative, has written to President Clinton to ask him to start lobby-

ing for Lewis. It is, as they say here, "a tough call" for the Americans.

Three other competitors apart from Lewis, have won nine gold medals in 100 years of the Games. They are Paavo Nurmi, a long-distance runner from Finland, Larissa Latynina, a Russian gymnast, and Mark Spitz, an American swimmer.

Lewis himself, started the controversy by suggesting that the public should contact the US Olympic Committee and campaign noisily in the stadium on his behalf. But yesterday he said: "I've accepted all along that the team has been selected. Now is the time to support the team."

However he added that he would run, if offered the chance by Hunt, and there remains an outside chance of a place if other members of the squad are injured. "I would take that," Lewis said.



No 850

ACROSS

- 1 Travel document (8)
- 5 Rain gently; depth of spade (4)
- 9 Insult, etc, requiring satisfaction (5,2,6)
- 10 Terrifying monster (4)
- 11 Hand-thrown explosive (7)
- 13 Rock plant (6)
- 15 Writing desk (6)
- 18 Footless heraldic bird (7)
- 20 Lose intensity (4)
- 23 *Romeo and Juliet* based musical (4,4,5)
- 24 New Haven university (4)
- 25 Largest Solar System moon (8)

DOWN

- 1 Narrowly beats; time signal (4)
- 2 Arm support; throw (5)
- 3 Mould, example (7)
- 4 Place of safety (6)
- 6 Irreligious (7)
- 7 Shortened (clothes); arrived (6,2)
- 8 Folk wisdom (4)
- 12 One is safe out of it (5,3)
- 14 Casual reading (7)
- 16 Non-pedantic (7)
- 17 Sports grounds (6)
- 19 Whip (4)
- 21 Monotone; type of bee (5)
- 22 Kind, sort (4)

The solution to 849 will be published Wednesday, August 7

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Beadsworth sails close to wind but leaves his best until last

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT, IN SAVANNAH

ANDY BEADSWORTH is a cool customer and it is just as well. He came within one race of being knocked out of the Soling match-racing in his quarter-final with Stig Westergaard, of Denmark, but converted it into a 3-2 win and then returned to the dock claiming the experience had not shaken him one bit.

It may not have affected Beadsworth but it was agonising for those of his supporters who were watching including Jim Saltonstall, the Great Britain coach, who was on the edge of his spectator boat. "It was nail-biting stuff," he said.

Beadsworth and his crew of Barry Parkin and Adrian Stead, found themselves in the quarter-finals on Wednesday because they lost their bye into the semi-finals after slipping to third overall on the last day of the fleet racing. Although Beadsworth is probably the

most talented match-racer still in the competition, Westergaard is the next best.

Despite sailing in the Spanish team's second-string boat after his own yacht was deemed illegal by measurers at the beginning of the regatta, Westergaard - this year's match-racing champion in Solings - had shown good speed and a fighting spirit to make it into the top six.

After two races and two victories, he seemed to have it all wrapped up. On each occasion the Britons were ahead, but then lost on the downwind legs as the Danes, with a slacker rig setting, produced more speed. But Beadsworth noticed the difference and altered his settings accordingly. In race three he led from start to finish.

The fourth race was decided in the pre-start when Westergaard earned a penalty

for not responding quickly enough to a luff with just one minute to go. Approaching the windward mark for the second time in the lead, he tried to force Beadsworth into a penalty of his own, but ended up stopping his boat dead in the water, allowing the Britons to sail past.

So it came down to the last race. Westergaard got away again up the beat but Beadsworth caught up on the run. About three-quarters of the way down it, Westergaard incurred another penalty for not sailing a proper course after his spinnaker touched Beadsworth's shroud. The Dane then fluffed his mark-rounding allowing Beadsworth an overlap, and they were off to the finish.

"That fifth one was a big match," Beadsworth said, "but we were sailing well. I was pleased. We had had a problem downwind and maybe didn't have the rig forward enough." Yesterday, Beadsworth was sailing in the semi-finals against the German double Olympic gold medal-winner Jochen Schümann. "He's got good speed and we are going to need to get up for it," Beadsworth said, "but we're on a roll now with all our pre-race nerves out of the way." Victory will assure him of a silver medal at worst. Defeat will mean a sail-off for bronze.

The other semi-final was being contested by the Russian crew led by Georgi Shayduko and the American boat helmed by Jeff Madrigali. Shayduko had earlier disposed of the Canadians, Bill and Joanne Abbott and Brad Boston, 3-0.

Meanwhile, Britain's John

Merricks and Ian Walker were facing their eleventh and last race in the 470s, knowing that they could afford to make no mistakes to hold on to the silver-medal position. They have had a difficult and inconsistent regatta by their own standards and have done well to claw their way into contention after some uneven results.

The gold is already secure in the hands of the Ukrainian pairing of Yevhen Braslavets and Ihor Marvinyenko but, luckily for Merricks and Walker, many of the other leading crews have had their off-days, too.

However three crews - the Russians, Portuguese and Americans - were capable of stealing silver from them and six could take the bronze. To get either, Merricks and Walker could not afford a disaster which could plunge them out of medal contention.



Beadsworth, left, Parkin and Stead are in the medal hunt



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